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perspective

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different
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Shadow catcher

Berlin artist Annette Vahle Ameret and the dancers who collaborated with her in a recent show at 798. Ameret's paintings captured the shifting forms made by the dancers' shadows in a three-hour performance.

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Massive child
slave labor
case exposed



Photo by Ge Yi



Gov probes accusation of child labor in Olympics goods

By Chu Meng

The Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said China is looking into recent accusations that some factories producing products for the Beijing Olympics are using child labor.

Spokesman for the Ministry Qin Gang said in a press conference that the Organizing Committee for the Beijing Olympic Games (BOCOG) strictly regulates factories that make licensed Beijing Olympics products, including requirements to protect workers' rights.

"Beijing Olympic officials may cancel contracts of companies if labor laws are broken. The committee will severely punish enterprises that violate the regulations,"

he said. "BOCOG is contacting relevant factories to inquire into the accusations."

BOCOG confirmed the names of the four companies in the southeastern city of Guangdong who have received contracts to produce official Olympic merchandise including caps, bags and stationary products. The companies are Lekit Stationery Company Ltd., Yue Wing Cheong Light Products (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd., Eagle Leather Products Ltd. and Mainland Headwear Holdings Ltd.

In a report released last Sunday, PlayFair 2008 - an alliance of global trade union and labor groups - cited four factories in southern China for alleged labor violations.

"We have very clear requirements and specific rules and regulations to manage the manufacturing," Jiang Xiaoyu, executive vice president of the BOCOG, said on Monday in Hong Kong. "If they very seriously breach this regulation, they will no longer work as our manufacturer."

The 30-page report detailed the use of workers as young as 12 years old and accuses companies of falsifying employment records and coercing workers to lie about their terms of employment. The legal minimum age for employment here is 16.

Officials at Mainland Headwear could not be reached for comment. The other three com-

panies, contacted earlier by the *Yangcheng Evening* newspaper in Guangzhou said they had not violated labor laws.

The Switzerland-based IOC released an announcement on Monday and said that it did not have direct control over all official products that carry the Olympic label. It said it has created policies on fair labor standards that it expected Olympic host cities and licensed manufacturers to follow.

"The IOC is committed to being a socially responsible leader of the Olympic Movement that takes care of the Olympic brand in the best way possible," IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said. "It matters to us that sourcing is done ethically."

BOCOG to prevent 'ambush marketing'

By He Jianwei

The athletes will not be allowed to endorse non-Olympic sponsors during the Olympic Games in order to protect the legal right of the sponsors to benefit from the Games, an official from the Beijing organizing Committee of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) said at a press conference on Wednesday.

"We won't allow participating athletes to speak for non-licensed companies during the Olympics. For example, Liu Xiang has to promise not to represent non-official sponsors, even though he is endorsed by Nike, a non-licensed brand," Chen Feng, vice-director of BOCOG Marketing Department said.

BOCOG will do its best to protect the rights and interests of the sponsors and to fight against ambush marketing, which refers to those non-Olympic companies that gain commercial benefits by selling or promoting fake or unauthorized goods associated with the Games.

"Products with Olympic symbols like 'the Olympic Games' and 'Beijing 2008' produced or sold by non licensed manufacturers are 'ambush marketing' products. Olympic-related publicity is also banned for licensed enterprises, sports equipment suppliers and Olympic competition venue owners," Chen said.

He believed the fight against ambush marketing should involve many participants, including different levels of government, social organizations, news media outlets, co-host cities, and even spectators.

"If ordinary citizens refrain from buying fake Olympic products and report infringement cases, they will be making a sterling contribution and add to the protection of Olympic intellectual property rights," Chen said.

Face to face with the new National Grand Theatre



The French designer Paul Andreu visits the construction sight of the amazing National Grand Theater near Tian'anmen Square. It is going to finish construction soon and is scheduled to reveal its front facade to the public today.

CFP Photo

Hospitals approved for human organ transplants named

By Jiang Xubo

Beijing will award exclusive approval for human organ transplants to 13 hospitals during this month if there are no objections against the candidates, the Municipal Health Bureau announced on Monday.

Hospitals including the China-Japan Friendship Hospital, the Peking Union Medical College Hospital, the Beijing Chaoyang Hospital, and the Armed Police General Hospital made the list. Each hospital would be approved for one to three specific surgeries, including heart, lung, liver and kidney transplants.

The authority listed the hospitals and the transplant sur-

gery, which they are allowed to carry out, on its official website, bjhb.gov.cn, until June 24 to solicit public opinions.

Medical institutions, which carry out transplant operations without official approval, will go against the country's laws for human organ transplants.

The bureau came up with the list after it had assessed the candidate hospitals across the capital, a bureau statement said.

Provinces and municipalities, including Jiangsu, Shanghai, Heilongjiang, Shandong, and Anhui, also made public their approved hospital lists as required by the Ministry of Health as the country's first law

for human organ transplants went into effect last month, which aimed for a ban on human organ trade and stricter regulations on the surgery.

About 600 hospitals and clinics across the country, which offered transplants services, submitted applications for the official approval, but only 160 medical institutions got the license as MH announced the first group of authorized medical institutions in April.

About 1.5 million people nationwide need transplants each year, but only 10,000 of them could get organs due to the lack of organ supply, according to the Ministry of Health.

Public fountains will quench Olympic thirst

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing will install public water fountains on major streets and Olympic venues starting from this year, according to the Beijing 2008 Environment Construction Office.

Lu Haijun, deputy director from the office told the media this week that the initiative is under discussion and waiting for the mayor's approval.

Aside from the water fountains, the office will further improve public facilities in the city, such as garbage cans, chairs and tables under the category of "basic city furniture," information and newspaper kiosks, public telephones, newspaper stands and mail boxes under the category of "information service facilities" and public toilets, bus terminals, bicycle stands and road barriers under the category of "travel service facilities."

The office will also renovate 218 hutongs, starting in the Dongcheng and Xicheng districts. "Once the plan is stamped, we will begin the installation," Zhou Jiawang from the same office told *Beijing Today*.

The Beijing 2008 Environment Construction Office was established at the end of 2005 under the municipal government and is in charge of the city's construction, renovation and maintenance before the 2008 Olympic Games.

Modern art festival to light up the ancient capital

By Chu Meng

The fourth Dashanzi International Art Festival (DIAF) will begin this fall in Beijing. DIAF will transform the capital into a platform for contemporary art for three weeks from September 22 to October 14.

It will take place at six locations across the city: Jiuchang Art District, Dashanzi Art District, Gao Bei Dian Art District and the Nine Theatre.

The first DIAF was launched in 2004. During its first 3 years, it provided a large panel of artistic and cultural events covering many aspects of Chinese and international contemporary art, including visual arts, architecture, design, dance, theater, performances, music and sound, movies and documentaries. Because of the diversity of its programs, DIAF acquired an indisputable reputation at home and abroad.

The theme for this year will be "Yi (game) / Yi (process)." In Chinese, Yi (game) is from "The Book of Changes: ancient China's philosophical understanding of natural changes." Yi (process) is a process over time and space and the most obvious challenge to humans in modern society. With this double meaning, they want to connect the liveliness and mischievousness of the game with rational and academic concepts.

Imported waste electronics refurbished and resold

By Jackie Zhang

Over 1,000 illegal workshops are refurbishing imported electric waste in the city of Qingyuan, Guangdong Province. It has even become a local cornerstone industry. The State Environmental Protection Administration this month sent a special team to Guangdong to investigate the problem, but its findings have yet to be made public.

Longtang Town is a center of the trade. It is a small town with a population of 100,000, 20 kilometers away from the downtown of Qingyuan. Here more than 50,000 people are working everyday refurbishing imported electrical waste in over 1,000 illegal workshops scattered throughout a number of villages.

"Most of them disassemble old computers and duplicators

with hammers and coal stoves without any protective measures," said a local villager. The average salary for handling electric waste is around 20 yuan per day. Some migrant workers have joined local villagers working in the industry. The work has left most of the workers suffering from skin diseases, respiratory diseases and kidney stones.

Reprocessing electric waste has caused serious environmental pollution as well. Ding'an Village gathers the most workshops in the town. Everyday, thick black smoke rises due to burning electric waste and the smell pervades the village at all times.

An elderly man said that the waste electrical goods were brought here by businessmen in big containers and then distributed to big and small factories or

workshops in different villages.

The refitted foreign electrical waste goods are then sold to electrical appliances markets. In Huafa Electrical Appliances market in Foshan City, around 25 tons of electrical waste goods are imported every day. These waste items are mainly from developed countries, including Japan and the US. Obsolete machines and even new products, which have not been sold in China can be found in the market.

Many print shop owners prefer to buy these refitted items at lower prices. The local second hand market also provides an outlet.

Li, deputy mayor of Longtang Town admitted that there were at least 1,000 big or small factories refurbishing foreign electrical waste and none had business licenses. "These factories were set

up at the end of the 1970s. It's a kind of historical problem and can't be solved all at once," Li said.

Li said that processing electrical waste had been an important source of local villagers' income. "Recycling this waste is done for economic reasons. The industry brings the country a large amount of metals every year," Li said. "Now the problem is how to regulate the industry."

Longtang Town is just one of Guangdong's eight big consumers of electrical waste. Others include Guiyu Town in Shantou and Dali in the city of Foshan.

Chinese law regulating the handling of solid waste released in 1995 has clear rules on forbidding the import of foreign waste. However, the law is not strict on punishing illegal imports so the practice continues unabated.

Fake blood products found in 18 Jilin hospitals

By Annie Wei

Fake blood products have been found to be in use in nine provinces and regions, with the situation in Jilin being the worst, the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) said this week.

The blood product human albumin is used to treat seriously ill patients. There has recently been a nationwide shortage creating a high profit margin for the fake versions.

Early this year, SFDA organized national regular checks on human albumin, finding 18 public hospitals, 39 drug wholesalers and retailers in Jilin involved in the purchase of some 2,000 fake human albumin products. Public hospitals trusted by local people were among the offending institutions.

"They do not have any protein component," Xu Fei, deputy chief of Jilin food and drug inspection department, said. "It's a completely fake product." For people who are already seriously ill and need the real human albumin, these fake products put their lives at risk.

China has regulations on blood products, such as compulsory inspection and mandatory approval required for sale, import or use. However, Jilin food and drug administrative could not find any approvals granted to the People's Hospital in Jingyu County to use these products.

According to Jilin food and drug administrative, the hospital bought a total of 200 bottles of fake product of which 175 bottles had been used. The remainder all tested fake.

Chen Hongguo, director of the hospital pharmacy, purchased the products with accompanying paperwork claiming that the medicine was produced in 2005 in West Germany, a country which no longer exists. Chen said he did not notice this.

Lu Xiaoguang, a salesman from a drug wholesale company was found to have faked documentation and bribed staff from hospital pharmacies to buy in his deadly products.

Both Lu and Chen are now under arrest. Police nationwide are still investigating into the underground network of the illegal trade.

Brief news

Pyramid sales arrests

China recorded a total of over 2,000 cases of pyramid selling last year and arrested more than 16,000 suspects, the Ministry of Public Security said Tuesday.

Millions of traffic smart cards

The capital has issued over 11 million traffic smart cards, which are now used to pay for some 85 percent of the city's bus trips and some 70 percent of subway trips every day, according to transport operators.

Pork price surge

The capital's pork prices rose over 30 percent and egg prices rose 28 percent last month against that of the same period of last year, which led to an overall four percent rise in the food price index last month, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics announced Wednesday. (By Jiang Xubo)

Storms engulf southwestern city



Fierce storms led to flooding Wednesday, which engulfed Liuzhou City in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

CFP Photo

Sheraton Hotel responds to 'charity gate'

By Ming Xin

The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing on Sunday denounced a local newspaper report, which claims the hotel forced one of its managers to resign because of her charity work. The hotel emphasized that it had been supporting charities and doing its own charitable work.

Ju Yingying, a former trainer with the hotel's food and wine department, was quoted by

Beijing Morning Post as saying that she was forced to resign last month for her voluntary teaching at a vocational school in her spare time. Ju said what she did was a kind of charity service for the school, BN Vocational School, providing practical skills training for those from extreme low-income families and she was not paid except a small sum to cover travel costs (100 yuan per class).

The story has triggered a lot of

criticism at the hotel. However, according to the hotel's statement, Ju's teaching at the school was not volunteer work at all, because she used her working time to do it, not her own time. Further, Ju was paid 400 yuan every week by the school, which meant she could not be viewed as providing "volunteer" or "charity" service.

The hotel showed paperwork confirming Ju's absence during

working hours, saying that Ju's actions were a serious breach of professional discipline. The hotel also denied forcing Ju to resign.

Ji Yan, director of marketing and communications of the hotel's public relations department, said that the hotel had long supported charities and charitable work and had donated a great deal of money to charity organizations and foundations including the Hope Project.

Largest Christian church in western Beijing opened

By Huang Daohen

A newly completed Christian church, located in Zhongguancun, China's Silicon Valley, was officially opened to the public last weekend. The church is claimed to be the largest in the west of the city.

This church, built in a traditional Chinese style was designed by the German architect, Meinhard von Gerkan to what he calls a "three P" concept: the public, private, and partnership with commercial space on the ground floor.

Combined with an idea of freedom and a curving structure, the church stands between the Zhongguancun tower and the "city book group", making it the sole edifice in

an open square.

The cross, symbol of a Christian place of worship, stands prominently in the huge main space. A long stairway must be climbed to enter the main floor of the church, where the altar is located.

The entrance for priests and church staff is at the northwest, where they can access the west side of a small chapel and reach the staircase and escalator. The offices of the archdiocese and the executive staff are in the second and third floors.

"If there is a Christian church near where I work, that will be wonderful," Chen Wei, a 33-year-old woman working in a computer company in Zhongguancun, said.



The church will be the largest in the western area of the capital.

Photo provided by fengniao.com

By Han Manman

A group of fathers in Henan Province find themselves linked by the same cruel fate that has befallen their families. Their sons were kidnapped by child traffickers and sold to work in unlicensed brick kilns in distant Shanxi as slave labor. The fathers have spared no expense and taken great personal risks to visit the remote mountains in search of their missing children. Some 40 boys have been rescued by their fathers within a two month period. The fathers took their story to the local authorities, but found none willing to take up their case and indeed apparent collusion with the kiln operators.

Massive child slave labor case exposed

400 fathers sign joint SOS appeal to locate their missing sons



38 laborers crowded in a 20 square meters room in a kiln near Zhengzhou.

Last week more than 400 despairing fathers from Henan jointly launched an online appeal to help locate their missing sons, kidnapped by child traffickers and sold to Shanxi province to work as slave labor.

Fu Zhenzhong, a reporter from Henan TV station visited Shanxi three times after first receiving a tip on May 9, producing a series of video reports exposing the ugly truth of the enslaved children's plight. After the series was broadcast on June 9, Henan police put a rescue operation in motion.

Fathers' cry for help

In their online appeal, the fathers stated that the lost boys went missing at or around railway stations, bus stations and major road intersections in Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province. The children were conned or kidnapped by child traffickers before being sold on to work at brick kilns in Linfen and Yongji in Shanxi.

The appeal describes the fathers' shock at seeing small boys with the long unkempt hair "like wild children." Some had been beaten to disable them after escape attempts. The flesh on some of their backs was raw and bloody from burning by red-hot bricks. They work over 14 hours a day on an inadequate food allowance. The youngest boy, the fathers say, is only eight years old.

As the unlicensed kilns are all located in remote mountain areas and the owners have networks of local informants, any outside unofficial rescue attempts are at an enormous disadvantage.

The fathers wrote on the appeal, "We were shocked to find the local police not just try to dissuade us but also use every means to obstruct us from taking away children we rescued. They even stood by when we were threatened by the kiln owners."

Secret filming

Fu Zhenzhong said not long after he received his first tip-off about the kidnapped boys, he and his colleagues pretended to be parents and spent a month at the Shanxi kilns using a concealed camera to document the cruelty. The crew were able to rescue ten of the boys.

After Fu's reports were aired, more than 1,000 parents who had lost their children came to the TV station for help. Some said they had seen their missing children in the broadcast footage.

Fu said the kidnapped children were all boys, most between the age of 12 and 16. Boys who have been rescued say the traffickers have three main methods of taking their victims. They will ask a passing child



Shanxi has at least 1000 unlicensed kilns. CPF Photos



The child laborers work over 14 hour days.



The laborers are frequently beaten by their owner. IC Photo

Long journey in search of a lost son

Yang Aizhi is one of the hundreds of Henan parents who comes to Shanxi to seek their lost son. For four months now, she has been helping other parents find their lost children, yet she has not found her own son. She remains in Shanxi hoping to find her child.

Yang's son went missing in February one day after school. "I fainted when I heard my son was lost," she said. "Days later, I heard a boy in the next county had escaped and come back from a Shanxi kiln. He saw many boys from Henan working as slaves there," said Yang, "I was in despair, but decided to go to Shanxi to seek my son."

Yang said she has visited hundreds of kilns over the months and found most boys there were

trafficked from Henan. "Some boys were even wearing school uniforms. They knelt down to me and cried to beg me to take them back home. "But when I try to negotiate with the kiln owners I was told it was none of my business. Yang said she watched boys being beaten by kiln owner but was powerless to help.

Yang went to the local police to seek help. "A deputy director said that these foolish Henan laborers could work in Shanxi was a good thing, reducing the burden on the Henan government." Yang said, "I couldn't believe such words could be said by a senior police officer."

Yang said she met several parents in Shanxi, all of them looking for their lost children.

"We'd visit kilns one by one by day. Nights were harder; we could only weep and hope to find our sons next day." Yang said there were always seven or eight hired thugs armed with iron bars and bricks following them when they visited a kiln. "We had to stay alert and were terrified of being beaten by those brutal men."

Yang witnessed brutal beatings of the child laborers and saw them confined in caves after work. The children would urinate and defecate where they slept. Yang said one cave she saw just 28 meters deep was home to 86 children. "If you haven't seen it for yourself you'd find it hard to believe, but these are the things we saw," said Yang.

to help them carry goods to a vehicle, then on arrival push them inside. They also give boys drugged drinks, or deceive them with promises of a high-paying job. Boys are held in a small dark room near Zhengzhou railway station until enough have been kidnapped to fill a minibus which takes them to the Shanxi kiln under the cover of darkness.

The main obstacle faced by Fu's rescue attempt was collusion and complicity of local official agencies. Fu said when a Henan boy Zhu Guanghui was rescued from a kiln and sent to the local labor inspectorate, he was immediately passed on by officials to another unlicensed kiln. An official surnamed Feng even took 300 yuan for himself in back pay that Zhu had been given when rescued.

Fu said he was absolutely shocked to find one brick kiln being run by the local village committee chairman and a representative of the local People's Congress. Fu said he saw seven boys in the kiln with injuries from frequent beatings. One had fifth-degree burns; another had a leg broken in a beating following an escape attempt. "Two boys were beaten to within an inch of their lives then buried alive by the brutal kiln owner," said Fu.

Police action

The fathers' appeal and the TV reports galvanized Henan police into action. On June 9, 35,000 officers were mobilized for a sweep of the kilns. To date 217 illegal laborers have been rescued including over 50 children.

Zhang Zhanjun, deputy director general of Zhengzhou Public Security Bureau, said police in the city are now concentrating on squashing criminal organizations in the worst affected areas — like those around the railway station.

Zhang said the police were making follow-up visits to parents who had reported missing children. A new hotline was also set up. Fu, said five major trafficking organizations in Zhengzhou were closed down in a single week once the police finally took action.

"Henan police cannot intervene in a Shanxi police case. Local government protection and official collusion in Shanxi made it difficult to stamp out this child trafficking," said Fu.

Fu said the Henan police authorities has reported facts of the Shanxi children labor situation to central police authorities. "We are very glad to hear the central authorities are taking this very seriously. They have ordered a search of all illegal kilns and the speedy rescue of child laborers."

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Foreign investment into property sector set to be tightened

Beijing, June 14 (Bloomberg) – China wants overseas developers to prove they have real-estate projects under way before they are allowed to form companies, in a move to tighten rules to curb property speculation.

Overseas investors must pro-

vide proof of their projects in addition to incorporating local companies before they were allowed to invest in the country, State Administration of Foreign Exchange said in a statement.

China has tightened loans to developers, cracked down on

housing speculators and raised taxes to cool the real estate market, amid concerns that soaring prices have made housing beyond the reach of many buyers.

Property prices in 70 of China's major cities rose by 5.4 percent in April from 2006, while the

average price jumped as much as 23.6 percent in the southern coastal city of Beihai.

China's currency administrator also said it would bar overseas investors from changing the names of actual real estate owners and bypassing regulations.

Beijing to host first cashmere fair

By Han Manman

The first China international cashmere fair will be held in Beijing this November 1 to 4 in the China World Exhibition Hall. It is the only cashmere fair approved by the Ministry of Commerce, Huo Jianguo of the China Chamber of Commerce said at yesterday's news conference.

Huo said China is a major manufacturer and exporter of cashmere and related products accounting for 75 percent of the world's output. However, many Chinese cashmere brands find themselves stuck at the lower end of the market. The high-end market is dominated by brands from the UK, Italy and France.

"The fair will provide an opportunity to show first-class Chinese cashmere brands to the world as well as bringing international high-end brands to Chinese consumers," said Huo. "We will invite the most important Chinese and overseas brands to exhibit at this fair."

Chinalco to acquire Peru Copper

Toronto, June 14 (Bloomberg) – Aluminum Corporation of China agreed to acquire Peru Copper Inc for about C\$840 million (US\$792 million).

Chinalco, China's largest aluminum producer, will pay C\$6.60 a share, the Vancouver-based Peru Copper said. China, the world's biggest copper consumer, is seeking to claim more global mineral resources amid concern that shortages threaten its manufacturers.

Ctrip.com opens a travel agency

Beijing, June 14 (eyefortravel) – Ctrip.com International Ltd, a consolidator of hotel accommodations and air tickets in China, is to set up a travel agency in Beijing in order to target the high-end group tours to 10 overseas destinations.

Ctrip.com offers services to customers through a transaction and service platform consisting of its centralized toll-free, around-the-clock customer service center and bilingual websites.

Sina, Google team up for search and news

By Zhao Hongyi

Google said earlier this week that it would be partnering with Sina.com, one of China's top internet portals, to provide news, advertising and search services in China.

The partnership will allow Google users easier access to Sina's news content. Meanwhile, Google will help Sina improve its online search engine.

Millions to help poor students

By He Jianwei

The Great China International Group donated three million yuan (US\$400,000) to the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA). The donation aims at providing financial support to university students in need.

According to CFPA figures, there are about five million university students in financial difficulties, about 20 percent of the total number at China's colleges.

Tomorrow's designers show their vision



Models demonstrate new staff uniforms at the "Fashion Show at Jing" in the Palace Peninsula Hotel yesterday.

The hotel invited students from the Fashion Institute, Beijing University of Technology, to design a new "Jing uniform" for staff in its western-style restaurant – Jing.

"Young people, both the design students and our staff, share

the same taste in fashion," Donald J Harrington, general manager of the hotel, said, "We were pleased to invite the young designers to work with us and very satisfied with the results."

The final winner of the design contest will be adopted as the new Jing uniform. Results will be unveiled in the restaurant later this year.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

MySpace China to launch IM service

Shanghai, June 14 (Reuters) – News Corp.-invested MySpace China had invited technicians to test a beta version of an instant messaging service, which they said needed more high-end features, such as video, to attract users, Luo Chuan, chief executive of MySpace China, said.

"The roll-out depends on user feedback," Luo Chuan, chief executive of MySpace China and former head of Microsoft Corp's MSN China, said.

MySpace China's IM service is likely to face stiff competition from major local players. Tencent Holdings, which operates a "QQ" messaging service, controls 79 percent of the Chinese messaging market, according to the Shanghai-based consultancy iResearch.

Microsoft's MSN Messenger, is already part of everyday life for teenagers and young professionals in China, with 20 million users.

Luo declined to comment on user figures for MySpace China, but media reports have said the site now has around 600,000 registered users.

Restrictions on foreign travel agencies to be lifted

By Huang Daohen

The Chinese Government will cancel limits for foreign invested travel agencies and allow them to set up branch offices in China from July 1, said Wang Zhifa, deputy director of the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), speaking last Sunday.

Wang disclosed the news when attending an economic seminar held between officials from the Pearl River Delta region and those from the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations during the past Sunday.

China will fulfill its commitment to World Trade Organization (WTO) ahead of schedule, said Wang. CNTA will then offer the same treatment to foreign travel agencies as part of those WTO commitments. In order to achieve this goal, CNTA will eliminate remaining restrictions and further its cooperation and exchange with the tourism industry.

In addition, CNTA will coop-

erate with Hong Kong and Macao tourism departments to jointly launch Olympic Games travel and "one-stop" travel services.

With regard to tourism cooperation in the Pearl River Delta region, Wang said CNTA would pay attention to this cooperation and would offer its support, as it had always done in the past.

CNTA, according to Wang, is working hard to bring some large global tourist agencies into the Chinese market.

ABB moves production bases to Beijing's Yizhuang

By Zhao Hongyi

ABB, one of the Fortune Global 500 and a leading power and automatic engineering company, inaugurated two plants – ABB High Voltage Switchgear Co Ltd Beijing and ABB Low Voltage Installation Materials Co Ltd Beijing in the Beijing Yizhuang

Economic Development Zone this week.

The two plants, one producing high-voltage and the other low-voltage circuit breakers have been operating elsewhere in China for a decade. Production is set to double after their relocation. Total investment for the two

plants is US\$67 million.

ABB has a full range of business activities in China, including R&D, manufacturing, sales and service, with 11,000 employees, 25 joint ventures and wholly-owned companies, and an extensive sales and service network across 38 cities.

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Open audition held for Broadway musical

By Gan Tian

Beijing Playhouse, the only English language based theater in the city, will kick off their final open auditions for its Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls* at the Canadian International School of Beijing this Tuesday evening.

There are eight male and six female singers, six male and four female actors and eight dancers needed for this production. More than fifty people tried out during the first round held last weekend. Only half of them got the callback for this Tuesday.

"All roles in the musical are open to the public and professional acting experience is not necessary. But the ability to perform in English is required," Chris Verrill, executive director of the play, said.

Situation grim for US rock climber

By Jiang Xubo

An American rock climber with severe head injuries remained in a coma yesterday after a fall at a local out-door rock-climbing club last Thursday.

Mike, the climber, was receiving treatment in the intensive care unit of Peking Union College Hospital (PUCH), but the hospital declined to comment on his current condition.

The club's operator, Zhang Xiaoliu, claimed that he was told at a briefing even if the climber awakes from his coma, the risk of permanent brain damage remained.

The man fell at Dianshi rock-climbing club in Ritan Park, Chaoyang District, after he had reached the top of the wall. His female climbing-partner and spotter tried to offer assistance, but there was little she could do.

"He was doing well at the beginning, and even turned back to his partner, smiling and talking. Yet he plunged from about five meters. His partner let go of the rope and let out a scream. He landed on the mat in a seated position but his head bashed against the ground. His head began to bleed and he fell into a coma right away," Zhang, also the club's legal representative, who witnessed the accident, said.

"I rushed to him along with several experienced climbers, loosened his harness and had him stretch out. We sent for doctors at a clinic nearby and called 999 for emergency medical care. He was sent to PUCH a half an hour after he received initial first aid treatment," Zhang said.

It was the second time Mike had come to the club. He turned to his friends for assistance, as he did when he came for the first time, not the club's staff.

"People rarely trust their safety to strangers. And generally speaking, rock-climbing clubs seldom offer to provide such assistance," Zhang said.

The club decided to close the day after the accident "to express their sympathy."



Professional music teachers from Beijing Playhouse test the vocals of some at an audition.

Photo by Gan Tian

"The great part of Beijing Playhouse is that some of the actors are experienced, but some of them have never acted before. Open auditions mean that anybody can come, but today is the last day and we will call back some of them to come here

again. They sing, they dance, and we listen to them speak. In the end we will try our best to pick the right people," American Rong Guo, stage manager of the play, said.

Most of the attendees have an English-speaking background,

coming from America, Australia, Europe, and Middle East. Half of them are also local Chinese, who went through the same process in the auditions.

Guys and Dolls, one of Broadway's biggest hits, is a musical-comedy about the story of a group of small-time gamblers and the women that love them. It has been performed 1,200 times and has netted more than twelve million dollars. Samuel Goldwyn once purchased the motion-picture rights for a million dollars plus a percentage of the profits, and cast Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra and Jean Simmons in the leading roles.

Beijing Playhouse's version will begin in September with all the singing and dialogue in English with Chinese subtitles.

Artist lurks behind the shadows

By Gan Tian

German artist Annette Vahle Ameret showed off her different approach to painting at the Beijing Space Gallery of 798 Art District on Monday afternoon: she invited three professional dancers to dance

under the sun as she caught the image of their shadows.

In front of the Beijing Space Gallery, three dancers wearing white masks and black robes all did separate dances draped in a long white cloth, their shadows

cast on the white cloth and on the ground turning into various forms. Ameret busily sketched and painted the shapes of their changing shadows using black, grey and blue paint. After an hour and a half, the paintings were completed. "It was really hot, but we love what we are doing. It's another way to express ourselves," said one of the dancers.

Calling herself "shadow catcher," the artist has been to different parts of the world to paint people's shadows. Her "Shadow Project" began in 2002 when Ameret became increasingly interested in body movements and shapes. However, the idea came later when she saw long shadows in the streets and began thinking about using them in her work.

Ameret found doing portraits of people without painting their real faces was a democratic art form. "In the beginning I found there was nothing in it but shape, but later I felt character and personality come out.

Because she only catches shadows from natural light, she had to endure the severe heat and other difficulties. "When I was working in Martinique in the Caribbean, there was sunshine but then suddenly it began to rain. Unfortunately, I couldn't finish my work there," she said.

Ameret believes that the shadow is related to politics, philosophy, culture, and religion. When she asked a woman in Northern Africa to let her paint her shadows, she was refused. "That lady was very afraid. She thought she would give her soul away and that her shadow would be gone. She believed her soul was in it. That was very curious," Ameret recalled, "We had a nice chat but she still refused in the end."

Having been in Beijing for only one week, Ameret found the city's contemporary art very impressive. She returned home on Wednesday, planning to continue the project in Berlin in the near future.



Annette Vahle Ameret does her shadow painting of three professional dancers.

Photo by Ge Yi



Benjamin Ross (right)

Photo provided by Benjamin Ross

Blogging from the barbershop

By Huang Daohen

"As an American living in China ... We all come for the 'China experience' ... But what is it like to be one of the 6 million Chinese residents of Fuzhou (Fujian province), especially those of the working class?"

The post was on Ben's Blog, a blog by an ethnographer who had just finished working for a month in a Chinese barbershop last Friday, in an effort to understand China's working class.

Benjamin Ross, 27, an American originally from Kansas City, is the ethnographer and owner of the blog called "Ben's Blog: A Midwesterner in the Middle Kingdom." (www.benross.net/wordpress). It went online earlier this year.

Ben finished college in 2003 and came to China the following year. As for the reason for this endeavour, Ben said he wanted to experience a lifestyle completely different from his own cushy life. "I wanted to be shocked and isolated. For this reason, I did not want to go to a major city like Beijing or Shanghai," he said.

He finally found a job in Fuzhou, the capital city of Fujian province in southeastern China, in early May, serving as a trainee at the local barbershop for less than US\$100 a month to get a better feel for China's working class.

What really makes this blog unique, however, is the insight into China's small business entrepreneurs. During his experience, Ben tried to explain the differing status of the rural and urban population here.

Along with its insights into the lives of those who worked at the barbershop, his blog also provided interesting observations on the shop's owner. In one of his most recent posts, "Last Day on the Job," he did a fascinating job detailing the shop's uneducated, yet obviously very bright owner.

Obviously, one month in a barbershop for an expat is not going to fully explain what it is like to be a member of the working class here, but nevertheless, it should certainly give a glimpse that "Work is a way of life and a means for survival," as Ben recently stated in his blog.

Italian Ideal City comes to architect's playground Beijing

By Chu Meng

This Tuesday one of Italy's best known architects Guglielmo Mozzoni brought his Ideal City Building Project, a lifelong personal obsession, to Beijing. The exhibition can be visited for free at the Italian Embassy for the coming two weeks.

Have you ever dreamed of living in an urban utopia where every commonplace idea about living is turned upside-down or given a whole new slant? Guglielmo Mozzoni's project presents just such a utopian vision of an ideal human living environment, yet it is one of the few widely accepted as being both practical and realistic.

The main architectural theme of the project is the globe. It is a town powered by solar ener-

gy and built to withstand earthquakes. Based on 12 levels, it is connected by gardens and terraces with ramps rather than steps. Each level contains houses, gardens and public offices.

It is a self-contained village in which every architectural style is possible. This 240-meter-diameter globe is designed to be able to contain a community home to 25,000 persons.

Mozzoni says his plan envisions residents of the city being able to live well and untroubled by their day-to-day lives, each with their own garden and vegetable plot right by their house.

It is a town where there is no need to go to public offices and you are no more than 240 meters away from shopping, swimming, churches, the cinema and when

needed, the hospital. All these buildings – including kindergartens, shelters, schools, meeting points and places for public assembly and civic governance – will share the same spherical floating, earthquake-proof, rotating building, which Mozzoni says will allow for energy conservation and a unique sense of self-containment.

The realistic and practical nature of the ideas is borne out because although called utopian project it meets all relevant Italian legal standards.

Mozzoni would expect the plan to be adopted where a council of local civil employees and the majority of citizens agree to its introduction. The architect now hopes his project can move out of the exhibition hall and into the real world.



600 children release balloons to pledge their commitment to the "LOVEDAY with UNICEF" event.

Photo provided by UNICEF

UNICEF launches youth HIV/AIDS prevention campaign

By Qiu Jiaoning

A special event with the theme of "LOVEDAY with UNICEF," organized jointly by UNICEF and China's Ministry of Commerce, was held at the Great Wall, aiming to raise public awareness of the plight of children living with HIV/AIDS.

Over 600 Beijing students participated in the event, symbolically launching balloons to pledge their commitment to the cause.

Global luxury brand Cartier announced that, with help of the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF, it is to donate three million yuan to UNICEF. The funds will be used by UNICEF to support a program for HIV prevention and care in China.

UNICEF Representative to China Dr Yin Yin Nwe expressed the hope "that other companies will follow the Cartier example and lend their support to addressing an epidemic which affects young people so much but where equally, young people are part of the solution."

Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF Ambassador Gigi Leung, Vanness Wu, set to

become Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF Ambassador; and well-known Chinese actress Mei Ting were there at the Juyongguan section of the Great Wall to lend their support to the campaign.

The venue for "LOVEDAY with UNICEF" was chosen as the Great Wall is a symbol of China's history and heritage. Through an event at this unique location, the hope of all involved was that a message of love and concern for children affected by AIDS would reach the widest possible audience, a statement from UNICEF read.

UNICEF's cooperation with the Chinese government is currently focused on care for children affected by HIV/AIDS. The numerous programs undertaken under this partnership have already achieved important results and garnered widespread public interest. Last year, a nationwide China's Campaign on Children and AIDS helped to raise awareness about the situation of children affected by AIDS and to combat the stigma and discrimination to which they are often subject.

US Embassy eases visa application requirements for Chinese non-migrants

By Chu Meng

The US embassy in China this week released a document setting out a more relaxed policy for Chinese non-migrant visa applicants. The policy will come into effect this month.

The document states that non-migrant visa applicants who

are under 14 years old or above 80 may skip the face-to-face interview, previously required for ordinary Chinese citizens. These young and elderly qualified applicants now only have to send their visa application paperwork to the embassy by mail, instead of in person.

Qualified applicants may send paperwork using a special service available at any CITIC Bank branch in Beijing. But the embassy document also states that the new policy will still be as strict as to who actually gets in, and face-to-face interviews are still an option if preferred.

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Green Drinks in town



Jenny Chu (first on left) introduces speakers at the Green Drinks event at the Stone Boat in Ritan Park Tuesday.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

By Annie Wei

A lot of people started gathering at 8pm on Tuesday night at the Stone Boat bar in Ritan Park. From the outside, it looks just like every other event that is held there. But inside, it offers a new theme to Beijing's nightlife – to get green!

Jenny Chu, a 28-year-old American-born Chinese, working for ESD Sinophere, an environmental consulting company has been living in the capital for a little over a year. With job connections to varied environment NGOs in town, and a big interest in environmental topics, Jenny found there weren't

any "green drinks" in Beijing yet.

Green Drinks originally started in the UK in 1989 and has rapidly become a worldwide event. The idea is to bring together people with a common interest in the environment and is open to everyone with the aim of raising awareness of green sustainable development through networking, socializing, and information exchange.

"There are over 104 cities in the world that have their own green drink organizations," Chu said, "I have been thinking of organizing it for a long time."

Green Drinks Beijing has become a monthly event, and is scheduled on the second Tuesday of every month since April, Chu said.

Apart from providing a space to network, people looking for information and connections related to different environmental and sustainability issues, Chu invites speakers from different environmental NGOs to each event.

Today, there are three speakers who described what their organizations do. Yi Shui, deputy editor from Chinadialogue, an independent, non-profit organization based

in London and Beijing, spoke on how the group invited two journalists from the BBC and CCTV to write about how they tried to reduce carbons they emitted on a daily basis.

Tom Miller, a foreign journalist, said it was his second time here. "There were more than 100 people last time I came at 10:30," Miller said, "It attracted a lot of foreigners working for NGOs in Beijing and lots of young Chinese people who are concerned about the environment. It's great to see a very international idea like Green Drinks in Beijing."

Greenpeace finds GE ingredients in foreign products

By Annie Wei

Greenpeace China announced yesterday that genetically engineered (GE) food products were found in Japanese food producer Glico and German retail chain Metro, and criticized the two companies for having double standards. Greenpeace said they hoped these food companies would adopt a non-GE policy here.

According to Greenpeace China, they selected 21 food samples from Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai between April and May. These samples were sent to Hong Kong DNA Chips Ltd, an independent laboratory for testing. The result shows the presence of GE ingredients in four Glico snack food products and one from Metro's own brand of biscuits.

Both Glico and Metro have adopted a non-GE policy in their own countries. "Like Japanese and German consumers, Chinese consumers do not want GE food. Glico and Metro should stop having double standards and apply their non-GE policy to China as well," Lorena Luo, from Greenpeace, said.

So far, neither of the two companies have responded to medias' request on GE-food policies here.

Although China has not required processed food products to label their GE ingredients, "The safety of GE food has been controversial around the world," Luo said "That's why we think Chinese consumers have right to know what they are buying."

Cass China Symposium held in town for the first time

By Jackie Zhang

The third annual symposium of London's Cass Business School began here on Monday and will end tomorrow. Chinese business leaders, 130 current MBA students, alumni and world-class academics took part in it.

The symposium is a unique event that signifies the school's commitment to China and is not held anywhere else in the world. It is the third year of the symposium, but the first year that it has had delegates visit both Beijing and Shanghai, only visiting Shanghai in the past.

The weeklong symposium is specifically designed to allow Cass students to learn about the Chinese market firsthand through an

intensive array of lectures and discussions with leading business representatives. With approximately 60 percent of Cass MBA graduates predicted to either work in China, or with Chinese companies, Cass has identified China as being of great strategic importance.

"Most of the people believe that they will do business at some point of their life. We think that the Chinese market is extremely important. Then, we created this China symposium in 2005 to take our MBA students here to see and learn directly," Professor David Sims, associate dean of MBA Programs from Cass, said. "We'd like our students to see things in different perspectives. If they do not come here then they can't under-

stand how big China is. They may think upon a problem in two dimensions before, but the visit may help them to think in three dimensionally in the future."

The numbers of speakers invited to the symposium from various industries include finance, banking, insurance, real estate, law, public relations and media.

"The lectures we heard were really interesting. It is both a direct and effective experience as opposed to learning things through TV channels abroad," an MBA student from Cass, Claire Lavers, said. "It is interesting to see from the inside what is happening in China. The topic concerning the situation of young Chinese people on Monday was particularly fascinating."

'Tattoo Show' has designs here

By Gan Tian

The Tattoo Show Convention China 2007 will kick off tomorrow at the Sanshang Art of Caochangdi Art District with local and international tattoo artists on hand.

The convention lasts for two days, dividing into local, international, black and white, and color groups. Starting at 10am tomorrow, five or six artists from each group will have 30 minutes apiece to design tattoos. In the afternoon, international models with finished tattoos can sign up for the competition. The next day will be focused

on traditional types of tattoos and will also be shows, parties and an award ceremony.

Booking a ticket costs a mere 30 yuan, while visitors must pay 50 yuan at the door. People who are interested in the event can call 6417 1806, 8483 3510, log in at tattoooshow.cn, or go to Longtang Tattoo at No 15, Xin Sanlitun Bejje, Chaoyang, to book the tickets.

The convention began to receive international attention last year and provides a wider and open platform for tattoo artists to show off their skills.



Tattoo artists show off their work last year.

Photo provided by Tattooshow

Events

Red Gate Gallery presents Guan Wei

To celebrate the launch of Red Gate's brand new book *To the Watchtower*, which showcases the gallery's history and the work of some of its great artists, Guan Wei will introduce Brian Wallace, Red Gate founder and director, who'll also be on hand to hold a "Q&A" session concerning the work of Red Gate and its artists.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: June 19, 7:30pm

Tel: 6586 9507

Book Club Day Group: "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down"

China Culture Club will have a book chat on *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman.

Where: China Culture Center, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: June 20, 10:30am-12pm

Tel: 6432 9341

Exhibition of Pollution Abatement and Environmentally-friendly Society

The State Environmental Protection Administration will organize an exhibition, focusing on "Pollution Abatement and Environmentally-friendly Society."

Where: Zhongshan Park (southwest entrance, near Forbidden City), Dongcheng

When: till June 20, daily, 10am-4pm

Cost: 10 yuan (only for park entrance)

Inner Mongolia Grasslands Cycle Tour

There are three grassland areas that can be visited from Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia; Xilamuren, Gegentala, and Huitengxile. Cycle China will organize two-day trip to Inner Mongolia and they will go to on of its least visited areas, Huitengxile, an area of ninety-nine natural lakes. They will provide quality mountain bikes, with gears, strong frames and sturdy tires meant for grassland cycling.

When: June 23-24, and June 30-July 1

Price: 1880 yuan

Tel: 6402 5653

(By He Jianwei)

New vehicle and vessel tax system to begin

By Chu Meng

Chinese insurance companies that were licensed to offer compulsory third party vehicle insurance will collect vehicle and vessel taxes for the tax authorities as of July 1, in accordance with the country's Interim Regulations on Vehicle and Vessel Tax, jointly issued by the State Administration of Taxation and the China Insurance Regulatory Commission this week.

A higher vehicle and vessel tax will be required for both Chinese and international residents here with the previous Vehicle and Vessel Usage License Tax for foreigners being replaced by the new one. According to the regulation, within the territory of the People's Republic of China, vehicle and boat owners will also have to pay the vehicle and vessel tax. The upper limit for vehicle tax is doubled, bringing the annual tax on passenger-carrying vehicles to between 60 and 660 yuan, and freight vehicles to between 16 and 120 yuan per ton.

At the moment, the local tax bureaus in each area are busy setting the new levy standard. It is said that many big cities intend to increase previous standards. In Beijing for example the levy on passenger-carrying vehicles is set to be raised above 360 yuan. The previous standard was 200 yuan for Chinese citizens and 120 yuan for foreigners.

The tax collection on vessels will continue based on each vessel's capacity. By raising both the lower and upper limits, it will come to between three and six yuan per ton.

However, those vehicles belonging to foreign embassies here, which have always enjoyed the tax exemption, will still enjoy this status after the new regulation is implemented.

How to be environmentally friendly everyday



Visitors enjoy the products on show at the environmental equipment exhibition at Nongzhan this week. CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

Being environmentally friendly can save both your money and our planet.

Rent a better-built apartment

According to Greenpeace's guide, space heating or cooling accounts for at least half of the overall energy use. Thus, proper insulation and ventilation is the first and most important energy saving measure. So, if and when you do move, consider energy-saving.

Change inefficient lighting

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs). Compact fluorescents use four times less energy, and last eight times longer. The compact fluorescent will be more expensive to buy, but means lower electricity bills in the long term.

A Laptop is better than a desktop

Buy a laptop computer instead of a desktop computer because it actually consumes five times less electricity. Enable the power management function on your computer and keep in mind that the screensaver does not save energy.

Cut off standby losses

Most modern electric appliances consume electricity even when turned off. The best solution is to buy appliances that have a very low standby energy consumption. Standby power consumption can be checked before buying.

Do not use an electric boiler (hot water heater)

An electric boiler does seem fast, but producing that electricity costs more in electricity wasted as heat. Roughly 2/3rds of the energy is lost before it even reaches your home.



Olympic volunteers are being recruited nation-wide.

CFP Photo

FESCO helps foreign companies volunteer for the Olympics

By Jiang Xubo

Staff members at the capital's foreign enterprises now have a more convenient way to make their dreams of being a volunteer for the Olympic Games come true with the help of the Beijing Volunteer Association Foreign Enterprise Branch.

The branch, set up in 2005 by the Beijing Foreign Enterprise Human Resources Services Co., Ltd (FESCO), is helping Olympic organizers recruit volunteers.

Recruitment is open to staff members from all foreign-funded enterprises, business representative offices, commercial organizations and social groups in the capital, as well as workers from other Beijing-based companies, seeking to pool talented volunteers for the Games and other social services. People can register with the branch and become candidates for voluntary positions.

Since the end of last year, over 2,000 people from foreign enterprises in the city have applied to become voluntary drivers and voluntary coordinators, helping organizers to provide better accommodation services, with the branch's help. And some 200 people received approval in April to serve as coordinators in the assigned hotels, press centers and the athletes' village.

"Expats working here could make better volunteers. They have better foreign language skills, knowledge of foreign culture and customs, thanks to their working experiences in foreign companies. Most foreign companies already have volunteer organizations and they do have enthusiasm for volunteer services," Wang Yi'e, FESCO's general manager, said. "The Olympics will need more volunteers besides voluntary drivers and receptionists. We are exploring long-term mechanisms to help foreign company staff to take voluntary roles at the Games."

For more information, please call the branch at 8561 8888, extension 32121 or 12053, or send an email to bva@fesco.com.cn. You could also visit fesco.com.cn for the registration.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I am trying to get a morque that can accommodate around 200 people, like the ones used for weddings or parties. I am also trying to get some board games, namely Monopoly and Scrabble.

For the tent, you can check this website: dynativ.com. For more information and prices, you can call their office in Beijing at 6582 7502 ext. 214. They provided tents in the VIP area for the 2003 Shanghai Fashion Week, so it should be able to accommodate 200 people. For the board games, you can check out the B1 floor of Guomao, where they have a few toy shops. You can also ask whether they can order games like Monopoly and Scrabble for you.

My friend is having his graduate work shown at his school, the University of Fine Arts in Beijing. Do you know how I can get there and is it expensive?

The Academy of Fine Arts is in Wangjing, close to Si Yuan Qiao. It takes approximately 25 minutes by bus from Dongzhimen. You can try bus 623 or 827. Also, there is a free bus opposite Dongzhimen subway station to IKEA every 1/2 hour (takes approx 1/2 hour) and from there it is a short walk to the school.

Since Feng Shui is originally from China, where can I find a reliable Feng Shui master here? Can I trust those people having a Feng Shui company here?

There are people who are making a living as Feng Shui masters. But we seldom see a Feng Shui workshop or company or studio on the street because the Industrial and Commercial Bureau will not allow any one to register his company with the characters of "Fengshui." The business is more from word-of-mouth. People often prefer a master that is recommended by a friend.

Is there a sports facility with a gym, swimming pool, and yoga studio around the Gongti area?

On the east side, there is the Nirvana gym next to Pacific Century Plaza. We have heard that it often gets very crowded. On the west side, next to the Dongsishitiao subway, there is a gym in the Swissotel. There is also a cheaper one in East Gate Plaza. Now many compounds have their own gyms that are open to the public as well, as long as you pay the membership fee, such as Sun City (north of Gongti Bei Lu), Season's Park (Chunxiu Lu), and Jingxiuyuan Gongyu (Xingfuzhong Lu). The Chaoyang experimental primary school has a swimming pool open to the public as well, which costs 150 yuan per month during the winter. The price will probably be slightly higher for the summer.

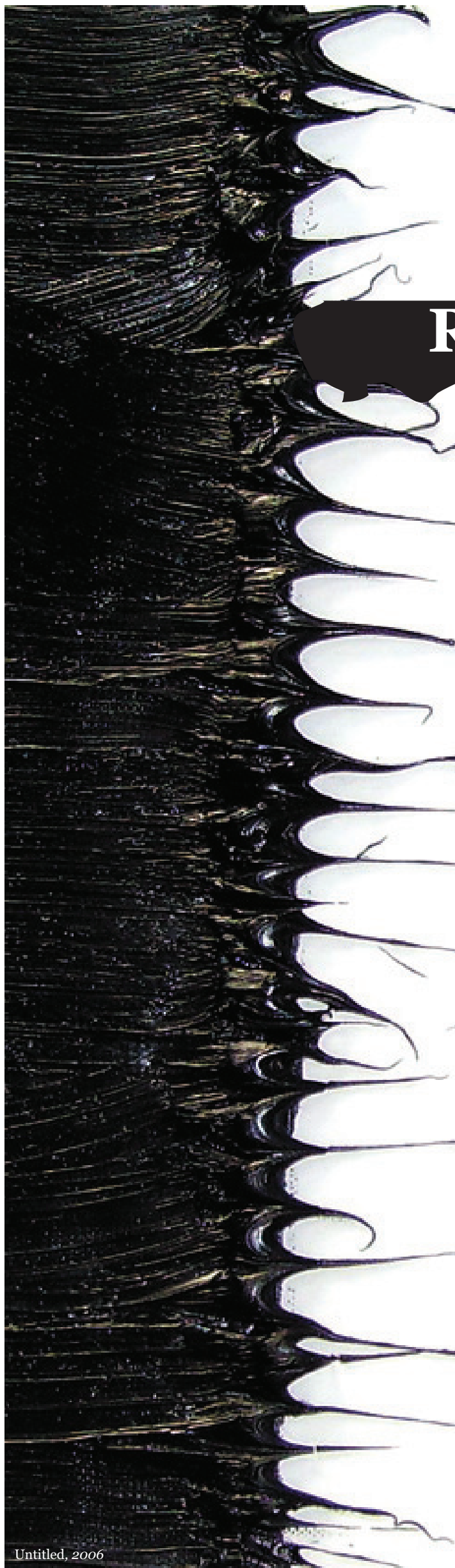
(By Wei Ying)

“Trans from diffe

Russell Beighton Solo E

By He Jianwei

At first glance, I can't
a second look, I was re
month. Both of them c



Untitled, 2006



Untitled, 2007

Photos provided

Transitions”

erent angles

xhibition

It really call Russell Beighton's works paintings, installations or sculptures. After taking reminded of the exhibition of Mono-ha, the unique Japanese art form that I saw last explore the relationship between things and space.

Britain's Russell Beighton has lived in Beijing for more than a year and is presenting his second solo exhibition in the capital this month. After speaking with him for over an hour, I found that his work looks similar to a chemical experiment, in which different materials make a reaction with the state of the substances constantly changing.

Challenging 2D painting

Painting, generally speaking, is an art of two dimensions, which is the reaction between color and surface. When you observe Beighton's works, he will tell you that painting is not a 2D format art anymore. "It requires you to view the work from different angles," Beighton explained.

"My practice is an ongoing questioning of the possibilities of painting and paint as a building and constructing medium. I combine elements of sculpture into painting, working with concepts and ideas along the theme of 'paintings as a living object,'" he said.

"The possibilities of paint as a building and constructive medium are ongoing concerns in Beighton's practice. The space behind the painting is of equal importance to the artist, engaging the viewer in a three-dimensional sculptural relationship rather than a frontal, pictorial one," Liz Aston, curator for Axis Arts UK, said.

Beighton pointed at one of his pieces in which the back of the canvas was leaning against the wall with expanding foam. "When I first started doing these works I questioned the hidden aspect of painting, like what was shown and what was not shown. Using the back of the canvas, I realized it also opened up to the possibility of another dimension; that of duplication and reflectivity through the use of mirrors and other materials. Some of the materials I used are made out of expanded foam coated with a mixture of enamel, varnish and oil based glossy paint," Beighton said.

"For me the space behind the paintings is just as important as the paintings themselves, and for the viewer to be engaged with the work, as an object with varying dimensions that are not limited to a traditional 2D format of painting. I use paint as a medium to express concepts rather than as a way of making images or pictures. The work goes beyond the purely visual. They require the viewer to be engaged with the work as an object in time," he added.

Melding of different materials

Wood, canvas, gloss paint, enamel paint, varnish and mirror, can all be found in his pieces. He believes the name "Transitions" is a way to express his idea of movement from one state to another and from one point to another.

The combination of expanded foam coated with enamel paint, oil paint and varnish is extensively applied to the edge of the canvas or

mirror. The breakaway space is almost like a gummy mixture, when one swath or coating of material stretched out to reveal another surface underneath. "That way of working came out of a series of charcoal sketches. I became interested in the whiteness of the paper underneath the dark layers of charcoal. Once I saw I could do that successfully I decided to try the same experiment on canvas," he said.

"This time I became interested in the surface underneath the applied mixture of oil and varnish, instead of a predictable surface represented by oil and varnish."

The material of mirror is rich in Beighton's works. He explores mirrors both as sculptural and painterly objects.

"I wanted to combine the idea of the object as it is, and its reflection, or the object as an illusion. This brings up the notion of the hidden or reverse side of the mirror a bit like Alice in Wonderland going down the rabbit hole," he said.

"When I create a piece using mirrors, I am working with a flat shiny surface and coating it with a thick dark tactile elastic skin to produce a specific tension between the mirror's flatness and depth. This tension is illusionary but it works by oscillating between the built up material and the material's reverse image in the mirror," he explained.

"In the future I want to explore my mirror paintings further both in size and complexity by using new materials and changing the structural support of the mirror itself. I want to make my paintings more three dimensional."

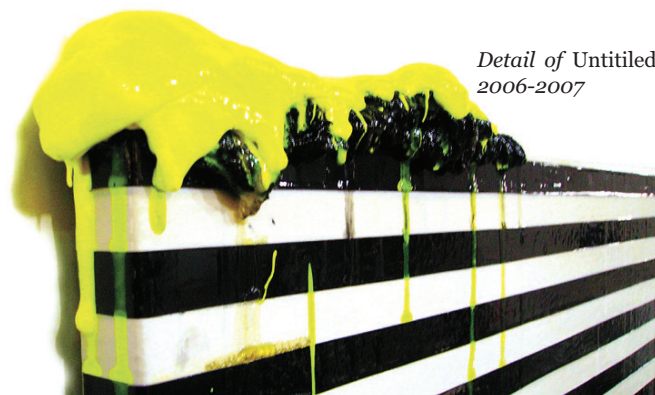
The influence of minimalism

"I see the works as experiments of discovery, a personal journey and questioning through the organic properties of paint and the support it is constructed upon, working with and questioning ideas and concepts of minimalism within painting and what possibilities this has," he said.

Minimalist emerged as a movement in the 1950s and continued through the 60s and 70s. It is a term used to describe paintings and sculpture that thrive on simplicity in both content and form, and seek to remove any sign of personal expressivity. The aim of Minimalism is to allow the viewer to experience the work more intensely without the distractions of composition, theme and so on.

Lucio Fontana, who created spatialism in 1947, a style of minimalist art in which a painted canvas is cut to add dimension, influenced Beighton a lot. "I'm interested in the minimalist artists' works, such as Lucio Fontana, Eva Hesse and Jason Martin."

"Some of my work is a metaphor for ideas of revealing, and the opposite, the hidden or concealment of surfaces and layers that act as metaphors for what is beyond the visible: openings and closures of space within the object (painting) and the space around it, or the wall or floor it is laid against."



Detail of Untitled, 2006-2007

"Transitions" – Russell Beighton Solo Exhibition

Where: Imagine Gallery, No 8 Feijiacun Yishu Gongzuoshi, Feijiacun, Laiguangying Donglu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-5:30pm, until August 5

Tel: 6438 5747

d by Imagine Gallery

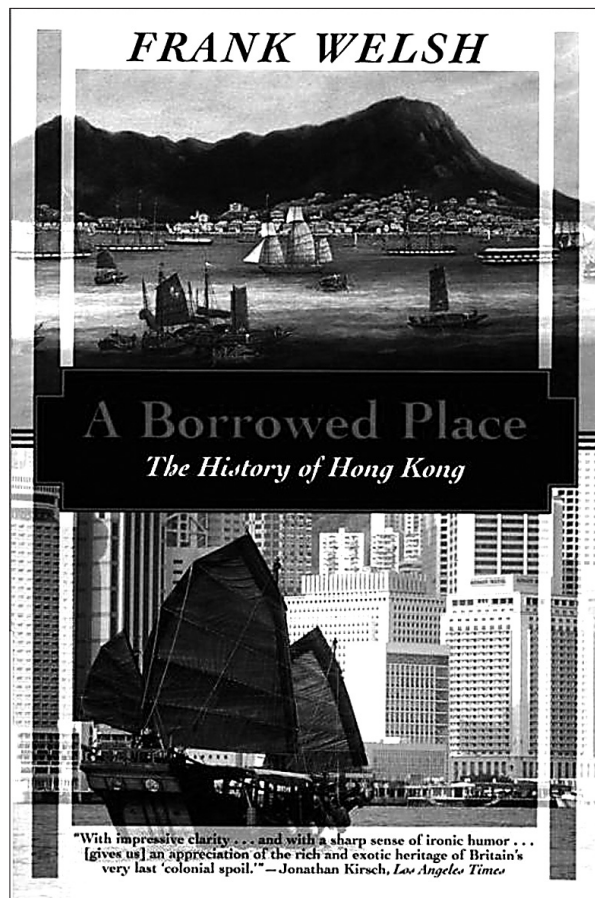
A History of Hong Kong

By Annie Wei

The tenth anniversary of the hand-back of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty brought the former colony into international media focus. However, if you have no idea of the history of the city over the past 150 years, the story of the last decade will make little sense.

A History of Hong Kong (first published by Kodansha Amer Inc in 1996), is a work by Frank Welsh, a British banker who later worked in Hong Kong, considered one of the most comprehensive histories of the city. A Chinese version has just been released, though English readers will definitely want to seek out the original, available in Beijing or Shanghai's Charterhouse bookstore.

The book is thoroughly researched. Welsh describes how Hong Kong transformed itself from a non-descript fishing village to a world-renowned financial and business hub after it was ceded to Britain in the wake of the 1832-1842 Opium War. Welsh chronicles periodic scandals involving the opium trade, prostitution, gambling and corruption that often led to quarrels between colonial governors, civil servants, government departments and the community. He describes conditions in the colony during



the WWII Japanese military occupation and the postwar effect after 1949.

In the book, Welsh covers events large and small. In 1854, he tells us, Hong Kong governor Sir John Bowring precipi-

tated a second Anglo-Chinese war, and, through his efforts, China was opened up to European travelers, missionaries, and traders. In 1894, a plague struck, causing then governor Sir William Robinson to

observe that the Chinese died "like sheep," since they were "educated to unsanitary habits...accustomed from infancy to herd together" – but Hong Kong survived to see the British accept a 99-year lease in 1898. The 1960s were the golden years of economic freedom, but, even though the populace prospered, hundreds of thousands suffered wretched temporary living conditions – such as sleeping in cardboard boxes near the Star Ferry terminal and even in wire cages in Mongkok.

Originally published in July 1996 the tone of the book is one of anxiety in the run-up to the handover due a year later on July 1, 1997. The book concludes with speculation on post-handover life and socio-economic prospects for the city. One of the major concerns of natives, politicians, and even the Taiwanese residents was whether "One Country, Two Systems" would deliver in practice for 50 years, as firmly promised by Beijing.

This book provides a good account of the origins of one of Asia's most important metropolises and tells a fascinating story. It is especially good for detailed pre-1945 history with more than two thirds of the book dedicated to those early years.

Who Stole Away Our Dignity?

By Annie Wei

Among the thousands of self-promoting writers and their horribly-written screeds flooding the contemporary Chinese book market, Chen Ran's new release comes as a welcome change, showing what serious writing can achieve and reminding the reader that taking the time to read and think can be a beautiful and enhancing experience.

Her new book *Shui Lueduole Women de Lian* (Who Stole Away Our Dignity?) published by the Writer's Publishing House is a collection of her recent essays. Each piece reads as a self-examination of a 40-something coming to terms with aging and maturity.

Take the first, title piece *Who Stole Away Our Dignity?*: Chen writes: Suddenly, you feel you are so far away from who you are the day before; suddenly, you feel yourself as if in free-fall, splendid and fading, enthusiastic but indifferent, sensitive yet dulled. Being easy and confident

is such an art! And being 40 years old is such a rich time in one's life!

Although some pieces from this book have been posted on her blog at Sina.com, Chen said she has started writing this book before she began publishing on line. She later gave up on Sina as she found the "randomness and impulsiveness" of blogging did not suit her. "I like to think a lot and select the words when I write," Chen said.

Born in 1962 and a former university Chinese teacher, Chen first found fame in the 1980s for the rebellious spirit of her writing. Her novel *Sirenghua Shenghuo* (Personalized Lifestyle) caused a great stir in the 1990s, a best seller considered a pioneering work of alternative lifestyle. Many readers said Chen Ran's books were as addictive as drugs to their teenage selves, and she garnered an obsessive following for her writing.

Chen said when she was writing her books back in the 80s and 90s, she was always angry and emotional, a mark of her youth. "But as one learns and grows, one comes to realize [youth] was not the best time for self or mind." Her new book, says Chen, is the result of her ongoing search for a spiritual dimension.

The once prolific Chen has published little over the past decade. Chen said this was not because she treated writing as an emotional release when she was young. Instead, being older and more mature, she doubts the quality of her writing when some others can churn out prose in machine-like quantity.



Bookworm Bookstore Recommendations

By Annie Wei

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm gives us the low-down on the three books most requested this week at the popular Sanlitun cafe.

After Dark

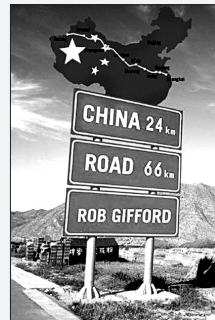
By Haruki Murakami, 208pps, Knopf, 180 yuan



The newest title from Japan's hottest literary export! *After Dark* is set during a single night in downtown Tokyo. Weaving the stories of a host of fascinating characters into a narrative of bizarre chance encounters, sleazy scenarios and lost souls looking for love, *After Dark* is Murakami at his best; weird, confusing and acutely perceptive of the tiny details that make human beings what they are.

China Road

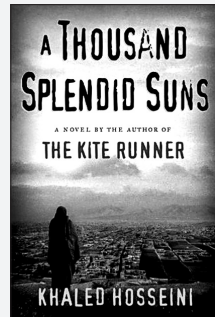
By Rob Gifford, 200pps, Blackstone Audio Inc, 160 yuan



National Public Radio correspondent Rob Gifford takes China's train route 312 from the economic miracle of Shanghai three thousand miles to its end at the border with Kazakhstan. Along the way he explores the biggest themes and challenges China faces today, and poses insightful questions on the country's future.

A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Khaled Hosseini, 384pps, Riverhead Hardcover, 180 yuan



The latest title is from the best selling author of *The Kite Runner*, now a highly anticipated movie set to hit the big screen this summer. Here we're once again in Afghanistan, but this work explores the lives of the women of that fascinating country, and the issues that shape their place in a contemporary Islamic society.

By He Jianwei

"What are you doing?" People in the thousands answer this one simple question using a new web service called "Twitter." Twitter is a real-time messaging system for groups and friends. If you don't use it, you may find yourself left out of the conversation.

Twitter

A new way to make friends

The charm of Twitter

Twitter is an online service that enables you to broadcast short messages to your friends or "followers." It also lets you specify which Twitter users you want to follow so you can read their messages in one place.

Twitter is designed to work on mobile phones as well as computers. All Twitter messages are limited to 140 characters, so each message can be sent as a single SMS alert. You can't say too much— or ramble on too long—in 140 characters, which is part of its charm.

If you follow your friends, and they follow each other, you can quickly communicate group-related items and news.

If you enter items into Twitter, they can be private, so only friends you've authorized can see them. Items can also be made public, which means anyone who knows your ID can read and subscribe to them.

How to get started

Go to Twitter.com and click "Join for free." It's helpful to upload a picture so you have a unique avatar. If you select the "Protect my updates" box, people won't be able to read your Tweets unless you authorize them. You'll have more fun if you leave this box unchecked.

Now that you have an account, tell your friends your username or send them the link to your page. Each user has his or her own page, in the form twitter.com/username.

Once you are registered, you can connect your mobile phone and instant messenger account. Go to Settings > Phone and IM. Connecting your phone and IM programs

to your account is a straightforward process. Note that messages you view on a phone or via an IM program are also readable on your personal Twitter Web page.

How to send messages

You can make Twitter send you a message every time a user who you are following has posted a message. This can be fun, but it will drive you crazy if you are following a lot of people. If you don't want to be barraged by a stream of random messages but still want friends to be able to reach you, select "Direct message." Then when other users send a message to you and you alone, you'll be alerted on your phone



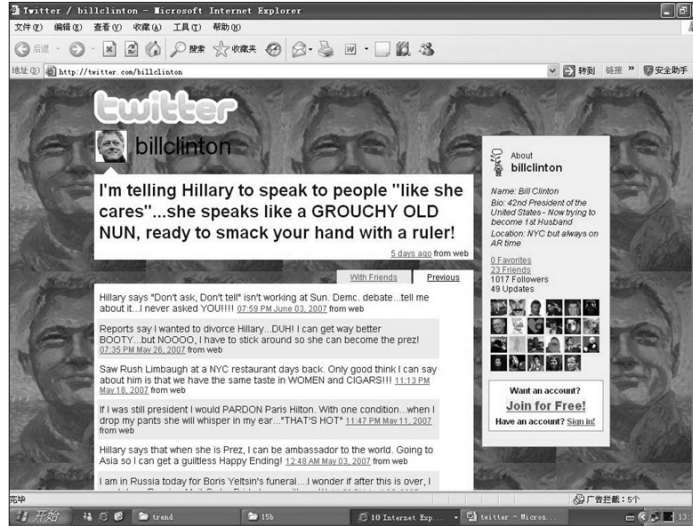
CNN's breaking news Twitter page



The Twitter main site

or IM account. Otherwise, you won't get an alert.

You can send a Twitter



Bill Clinton's Twitter page – apparently

message, or "Tweet," from any of your registered devices. From the Web page, enter a message in the entry window at the top of the page.

From a mobile phone, your phone's caller ID is attached to your Twitter account, so the system will know it's from you.

From IM, you could chat on Jabber or Google Talk.

In all these cases, all your "followers" will see your message on their own Twitter pages and possibly on their mobile devices as well.

Join friends

On the web: to add a friend, first be sure you are logged into

your account. Then go to his or her Twitter page and press the "Add" link in the "Actions" box. To find a user page, use the search box on your own Twitter page.

Once you click "Add," you'll start to see his or her Tweets on your page if his or her account is set for public access. If the account is private, the system will send a "friend" request that must be

approved before you start to see updates.

You also can see who your friends are following by hovering your mouse pointer over the pictures in the sidebar on your friends' pages. Those pictures are of their friends – the users they are following. If you click on one of those pictures, you'll go to that user's page, where you can add him or her, too.

You can see all the Tweets from any person's friends by clicking the "With friends" tab above his or her message window. Or you can turn that off and see only his or her Tweets by clicking the obliquely named "Previous" tab.

On phone or IM: send the command follow username to register your phone or IM account to receive public Tweets from a user.

Turning off Twitter

Twitter messages may drive you insane. If you want to turn them off, please send the command Off, Sleep, or Stop to Twitter. To turn it back on, send On, Wake, or Start.

In a web browser, in your settings page you can define a period of time during which Twitter will not bother you by phone or IM. This is useful if you ever want to sleep.

Twitter-like sites from across the globe

China
www.fanfou.com
www.komoo.cn
www.byuu.com
www.wulog.com
weazone.com
popwu.com
www.v2ex.com/ing
bullo.hjenglish.com/ing

Japan

timelog.jp
mogo2.jp
haru.fm
www.nowa.jp
www.feecl.jp

Greece

www.wamadu.de
www.frazr.com
www.faybl.de
www.partnr.de
www.texteln.de
www.familyone.de
www.1you.de
www.sloggen.de
www.dasbeep.de
www.baluuu.net
mambler.de

Spain

www.twilove.com
mexicodiario.com

Poland

www.robisz.pl

France

nomba.net

Korea

me2day.net

The United States

www.bebo.com
skittr.com

The Netherlands

www.kwid.nl

India

webaroo.com

Twitter web application Twitter.FM

This is a kind of Twitter search engine. It can help bring users who are in the same country or region together.

Twitter Ranking

Lots of Twitter-related lists and stats. You could find which Twitter has the most replies and which Twitter updates most frequently.

24clocks.com

Lists all of your messages on Twitter in chronological order.

FloatTwitter

A visual map of the links between your followers and friends on the Web.

Twignature

Software for making a personal signature.





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ern surgeons, the latest techniques and the most advanced medications are continually introduced.

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Dr. Chang on cosmetics and plastic surgery

1. Why is micro-trauma cosmetology so popular recently? What are the most popular cosmetic items using this technology?

Micro-trauma cosmetology means surgical operations without injuries and with a small incision. It has the advantages of less inflammation, accurate treatment, quick recovery, while also being more safe.

The procedure actually takes less time than you would spend making an instant meal. Because it is so quick, it does not bring any inconvenience to your daily life and as a result is in high demand from our clients.

For instance:

1. Injection cosmetology: botox-injection wrinkle eradication and face reshaping, collagen-injection to fill in facial wrinkles and depressions, anti-oxidation and anti-aging, melted-fat-injection body reshaping, etc.

2. Laser cosmetology: to erase acne, tighten the skin, and laser liposuction.

3. The small incision for double-fold eyelids, the eradication of underarm odor, and vaginal relaxation and tightening.

4. Micro-dermabrasion to cure: acne scars, liver spots, pigmentation, fine lines, blemishes.

2. Botox-injection wrinkle eradication is extremely popular worldwide. But many who have the procedure complain that it can make their face "freeze". Please give us your view

Botox-injection is mainly used to eliminate facial wrinkles, cure masticatory muscle hypertrophy and reshape the facial contour.

I have found that some clients do experience symptoms, such as "freezing," distorted eyebrows and eyelid drooping. After the treatment, it actually makes them look quite unnatural.

The major reason is that doctors have not been professionally trained to do proper injections.

First of all, the doctors must be clear that the purpose of botox injections are to improve the wrinkles in the specified area, rather than fixing the client's facial muscles.

To this end, injection techniques, including the choice of injection points, injection depth, understanding of the facial

muscles' functions, dosage and how to do the injections are all critically important.

People that receive the treatment hope they will look younger after the injections and keep the nature of their facial countenance, especially actors and actresses, as well as TV personalities. They obviously cannot have any unnatural or frozen facial expressions in front of the camera.

Therefore, I study the static and dynamic facial characters of my clients carefully, understand the importance of each piece of the muscle in the injection area, their relations with the surrounding expression muscles and the specific demand of my clients for their facial cosmetology before any injection.

For instance, when we conduct botox injections to eliminate forehead wrinkles, we must have to observe the symmetry of the eyebrows in relation with the upper eyelids, keep the eyebrows in a natural position and determine the points.

These requirements are closely related with the doctor's overall experience. Otherwise, it could easily lead to drooping of the eyebrows and a lack of expression on the forehead.

Another example is the treatment of masticatory muscle hypertrophy to form an oval face. If the technical parameters like the positioning of injection points, are not accurate, it could quite possibly lead to facial paralysis, the loosening of facial skin and an even more unnatural look.

Injective cosmetology seems simple,

but in fact, injecting skills play a large part in the results.

3. There are many options for facial injections. A lot of clients do not know how to choose.

I prefer to use the implanting materials existing in the skin, non-animal collagens and particularly those lasting a short time rather than permanently (between six to twelve months).

Permanent materials rarely decompose inside the body and easily lead to subcutaneous nodules. Animal collagen can also easily lead to allergic reactions.

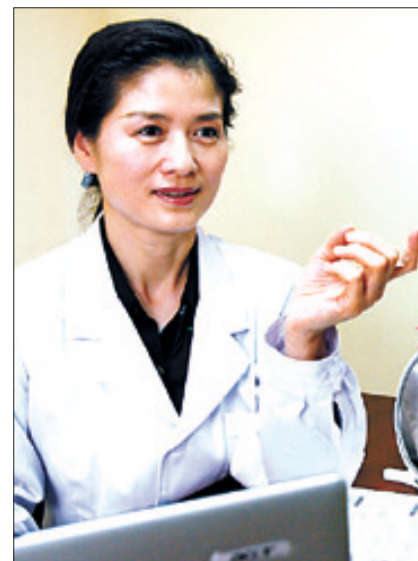
I found after meeting with them that many clients expected long-lasting cosmetic results, which is often contradictory to what I suggest. I would clearly explain to them the relationship between cosmetics and health.

Most of them accept my advice, appreciate the excellent results and have become return customers.

4. How do you monitor the results after the operations?

Many of my clients have been with me for years, including celebrities from the entertainment world. I issue them VIP cards and conduct regular follow-up interviews with them based on their skin problems and treatment concerns.

We'll adjust treatment initiatives based on each individual. The purpose is to recover and maintain the youth and beauty of our clients on the basis of science and technology.



Dr. Fiona Chang: Cosmetic, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon

- Associate Professor, Postgraduate supervisor;
 - Member of the Plastic Surgery Association of Chinese Medical Association, Beijing branch;
 - Over 20 years clinical experience in plastic surgery in the First Affiliated Hospital of China PLA General Hospital;
 - Trusted by professionals, celebrities and entrepreneurs
- Professional specialties:**
- Breast cosmetics and plastics;
 - Facial wrinkle reduction; face cosmetics and plastics;
 - Vaginal cosmetics and plastics;
 - Laser-assisted liposuction (Smart-lipo) and body reshaping;
 - Bio-injection cosmetics (removing wrinkle, filler, face reshaping, improving skin colors and anti-aging);
 - Medical cosmetics consulting and training;
 - Tailored overall cosmetic design;

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The uncut diamond

Debaue & Gallais

By Jiang Xubo

Standing among all the bright colored shops at the China World Shopping Mall, Debaue & Gallais' shop – decorated almost exclusively in white – presented itself like a petal. Yet there was no fragrance of flowers, only the delicious aroma of chocolate.

The shop is only around 25 square meters and cannot possibly be described as large, yet it is absolutely a jewelry case full of chocolates in all shapes and sizes. Debaue & Gallais has a history stretching back over two centuries ago when its founder, Sulpice Debaue, served as Louis XVI's chocolate maker.

The classic series is no doubt one of the shop's top sellers. A case of assortments that offer a broad selection of chocolate candies of hazelnut, almonds, butter, milk, traditional candies and even more surprising creations. The shop provides the assortments in three sizes, 300 grams, 400 grams and 500 grams, yet the assortment shares the same power to satisfy almost all your fantasies about



French chocolate.

Yet what interested me the most were the animal-shaped chocolates – a series of five miniature chocolate figures of a dog, a cat, an owl, a frog and a rabbit. They also offer chocolates in the shapes of pumpkins and bats for Halloween, and a snowman and a tree for Christmas.

Debaue & Gallais is perfect for those of you who are constantly running all over town looking for a present. The shop offers chocolate candies in boxes of a range of sizes with some of the boxes being a sort of artistic creation all in themselves with their French-style cloth covers.

Debaue & Gallais

Where: EB103, China World Shopping Mall

Open: 9:30am-9:30pm

Tel: 5869 1806 / 6505 4836

Cost: 35, 40 and 45 yuan

Cocoa Ballet in Houhai

By Chu Meng

Amongst the cluster of bars in Houhai, you can find a tiny store, which surprisingly does not sell any alcohol. Well actually, they do have a little alcohol, but it is in the middle of one of their delicious chocolates. It also exclusively sells the famous brand Leonidas.

You can enjoy over 30 different full-bodied chocolates as ballet performers dance at this Belgium hand-made chocolate bar named Cocoa Ballet.

Leonidas has been around for over a century and is a world-renowned chocolate maker, selling over 100 different kinds of Belgian chocolates at their 1,400 outlets worldwide. Cocoa Ballet is its only outlet in China.

Different chocolate flavors include: butter cream, candied fruit, caramel, half-slices, liqueur, and marzipan, and ganache. You can also order CD-shaped chocolate gift boxes – a great gift for Father's Day or for a loved one.

Leonidas guarantees fresh-



ness and quality in its chocolates and they are always made according to traditional methods, using only the finest ingredients, 100 percent pure cocoa butter as well as natural ingredients like fresh butter and fresh cream.

They also have delicacies such as hazelnuts from Turkey, morello cherries from Périgord, almonds from Italy and walnuts from Grenoble.

Cocoa Ballet Chocolate Art Salon

Where: Houhai Bar area, No. 30 Yandaixiejie Hutong, Xicheng

Open: 12 am-2am the next day

Tel: 8666 3116

By Chu Meng

One of the world's most famous chocolate makers, Belgian chef Claude Sênèque, once said, "Whenever I start working on a 'block' of chocolate, I can't help thinking about the miracle that is about to happen."

With his expert eyes, he knows the transformation that is about to take place. And every day, the fruits, or rather, pralines of his imagination delight an innumerable amount of chocolate lovers. Just like a musician, a chef or a perfume, it's a matter of creating taste associations, blending colors and balancing ingredients to achieve a symphony of tastes that can verge on the sublime. Here we find four hand-made chocolate bars in Beijing.

Reach your dad's innerchild



By Chu Meng

A mouth-watering selection of only premium dark chocolates packed in Venchi's custom-made signature gift boxes is a surprising and unique choice as a Father's Day gift this Sunday. You could find a subtly decorated chocolate store at the subway station exit to the Oriental Plaza Shopping Mall.

Passion-fruit hearts and cork-shaped Taittinger truffles are geared to adult tastes, but Venchi wisely stocks the shelves with kid-friendly treats as affordable as twenty yuan for a bag of chocolate-covered cornflakes or a jumbo-sized Big Daddy that costs in the hundreds for a bar. No matter your age, you will instantly become a kid in this candy store.

Venchi Hand-Painted Hens & Chicks are the hottest item on sale. Beautifully molded hens and chicks, hand painted with fine chocolate. Each comes beautifully presented in an attractive clear gift bag tied with a ribbon. You can choose

from dark (56 percent cocoa content) or milk (31 percent cocoa content).

Venchi 'Spiced' Chocolate Bars are another can't miss choice. These exotic Venchi bars are just the things for the chocolate lover who is looking for a 'kicked up' experience. The Chili and Absinth bars start with intense 75 percent "Cuor di Cacao" extra bitter-sweet chocolate; the Peppermint bar is based on a 60 percent dark semisweet chocolate; the Cinnamon and Vanilla bars are crafted with Venchi's rich and flavorful milk chocolate. All are accented with authentic natural flavorings for a most unusual and bold taste experience. A true chocolate adventure.

Italian Venchi Chocolate Shop

Where: Oriental Plaza Shopping Mall lower ground, right to the subway station exit, No 1 East Chang'an Avenue

Open: 10am-9:30pm

Tel: 8518 6229



Valentino Chocolatier

By Jiang Xubo

Valentino Chocolatier have their roots in Belgium – miles away from China – yet they have five outlets in the capital for chocolate lovers here to explore. The one in the China World Shopping Mall might be the coziest of them all.

The shop is not large at all, but it does present an appetizing experience with its wide variety of chocolates. Glass cases display fresh cream, hazelnut cream, mazipan, ganache and fruit cream chocolates as they glimmer from the cozy lights.

Valentino Chocolatier has been making traditional Belgian chocolates from the very first day the store opened. Yet it has achieved chocolate purity with its crown jewel – Napolitains, containing as high as 80 percent of cocoa.

There chocolates are always fresh despite the long distance from northwest Europe. "All of our chocolates are exported from Belgium. We airlift them to Beijing almost twice a month," a shop assistant said.

It's an exciting feeling for a connoisseur to savor chocolates here that would taste exactly the same if you were in Belgium.

Valentino Chocolatier

Where: B1-SB123B, China World Shopping Mall

Open: 10am-9:30pm

Tel: 5166 8211

Cost: 78 yuan/ 100 grams

Earphones as ear defenders

By Gan Tian

Hi everyone, this week your shopping star Gan Tian is back! What's that? You didn't hear me? Then I have some earphones to recommend you wear. They give you a great listening experience without giving cause for worry about future hearing problems!

If hearing problems are a concern, you could do worse than to turn to Han Manman's Health Page. She has two pretty ears. Or three.

Koss KSC 75

"The sound is good and the comfort is too on these handy-dandy little earphones", says the promotional copy and I must agree. This time take their word, even though it's a sales pitch. The sound quality can waver from time to time but overall these Koss phones have always been amongst the best-sounding earphones on the market. They're perfect for the active listener needing an inexpensive pair of headphones that you don't have to worry about getting sweaty in the gym or sticking under your hat or groovy skullcap.

I also note that because their open-design earpiece doesn't completely seal the ear canal, you can maintain your situational awareness as you deftly dodge traffic on your latest wheeled toy.

Available: headphone.com

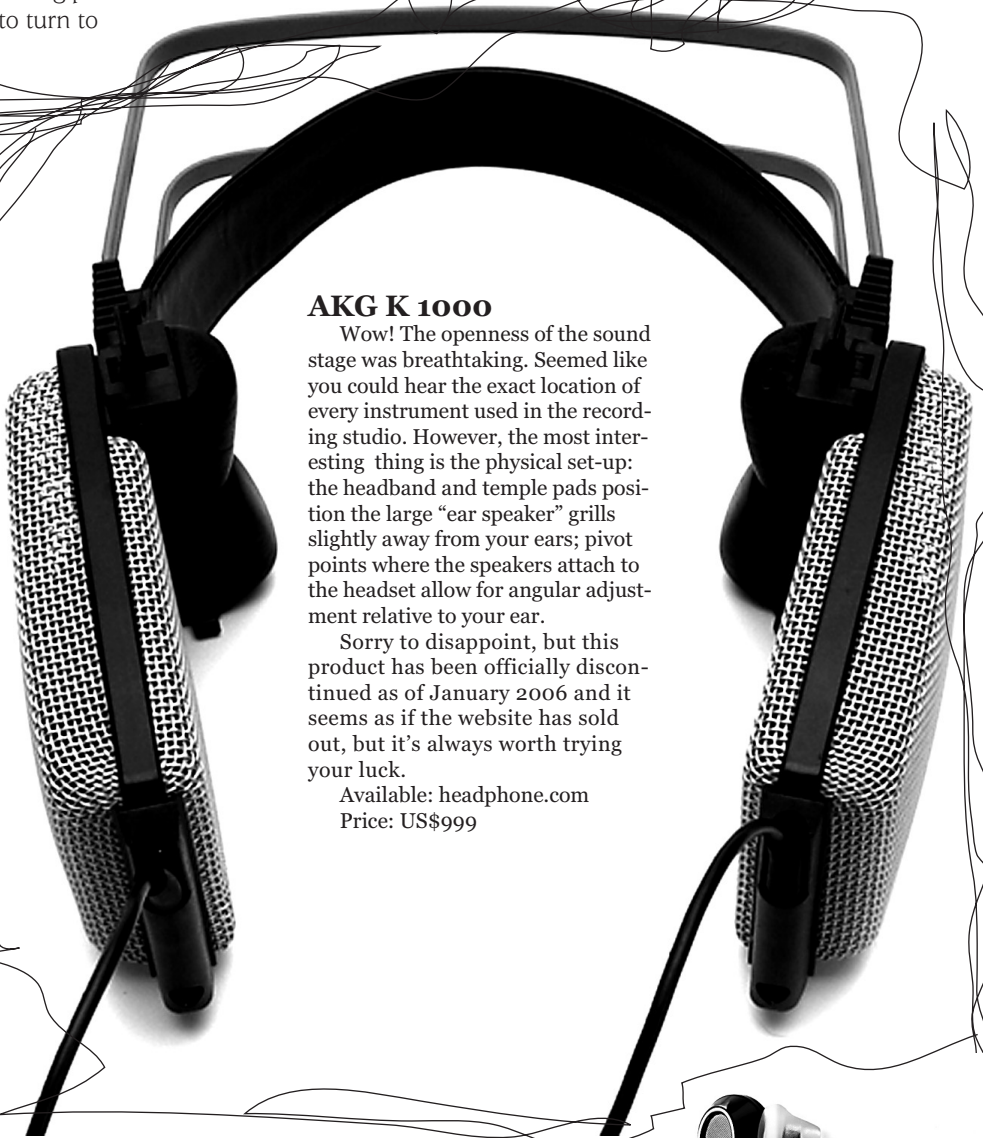
Price: US\$19.95



Blue Service Earphone

The worst thing about this pair of earphones is the lack of a brand. The best is that they look like something trendy from Apple. With a speaker sensitivity of 112 to 115 dB, you certainly won't hurt your shell-likes with these bad boys. Go to Zhongguancun and try your luck – you might get half price (though if you do, confirm it's not just for one ear piece, just in case). Yes, that would be the very best thing about these Blue Service Earphones.

Available: F/5, Hailong Electronic Shopping Center, Zhongguancun, Haidian
Price: 195 yuan



AKG K 1000

Wow! The openness of the sound stage was breathtaking. Seemed like you could hear the exact location of every instrument used in the recording studio. However, the most interesting thing is the physical set-up: the headband and temple pads position the large "ear speaker" grills slightly away from your ears; pivot points where the speakers attach to the headset allow for angular adjustment relative to your ear.

Sorry to disappoint, but this product has been officially discontinued as of January 2006 and it seems as if the website has sold out, but it's always worth trying your luck.

Available: headphone.com

Price: US\$999

Bose Insight Earphones

These go right inside your ears, which is why I've never tried them. I hate the feeling of putting something into my ears. However, the boffins tell us that it makes for good ear protection, because the sound reaches the ear from different directions instead of just the one straight blast of external earphones. And who are we to argue with science?

Available: F/5, Hailong Electronic Shopping Center, Zhongguancun, Haidian
Price: 275 yuan



Crew Headset

Okay, this is a whole lot more than just a pair of earphones. You don't believe me? See this Crew Headset is also a radio and a microphone and can operate wirelessly and connect using Bluetooth. If you buy the Pit Crew Ear Defender headset, you'll get an adapter cable, HSEX-01 4ft-6ft coiled and fittings thrown in as well, so you can look like a right roadie.

Available: tecstar.co.uk

Price: US\$138.60

AKG Hearo 999 Audiosphere II

Okay, here comes the big bomb. Look at the price and you'll know why. Though a bit complex to set up, the virtual acoustics processor in these headphones gets an A+ for building a beautifully stable and dimensionally immersive listening experience. The system also gets full marks on wireless reception quality, versatility, and looks. But the system seems a bit bass shy overall and we couldn't hear the subwoofer channel at all during movies. However, when it comes to the high-end of wireless headphones, this is it... Man, it was a great week of listening to movies in bed and cooking out in the kitchen while enjoying great wireless sound with flawless reception!

By the way, the packaging and ergonomics on this system are top-notch. A sexy hard-sided aluminum valise suitcase with a precision-cut foam interior just adds to the all round feel that you're in the presence of class.

Available: headphone.com

Price: US \$1,099



By Han Mamman

Gan Ge, 24, is working at a foreign-owned company here in the capital and last Friday was Gan's company's medical examination day. He was quite confident going into the tests and believed that no one could be healthier than him.

However, the last portion of the test was the ear examination and Gan discovered that he had too much ear wax – which can lead to a listening barrier or acouasm.

Gan was so surprised by this new information that he went to Beijing Chinese Medical Science Hospital to see doctor Liu Shuchun, the director of the department of otolaryngology for further help.

The doctor said that one of the most common complaints he sees is a blocked ear. The problem is usually caused by wax that has been pounded into the ear by the end of a cotton swab – like a pile driver. On top of feeling a blocking sensation, waxy ears can reduce hearing, cause a ringing sound (tinnitus), and sometimes result in severe pain.

Signs that you should seek medical advice

1. Ear pain and/or dizziness.
2. Ear is discharging pus or blood.
3. An earache while also feeling generally unwell with a fever and general malaise.
4. Any neck or head trauma occurred before the ear pain started.
5. Your hearing is acutely impaired or gradually deteriorating.
6. It is possible that a foreign object may be lodged in the ear; or medicine has already been used for the ear and the condition has not improved, or has become itchy, as this may indicate an allergic reaction to the medicine.

Advice you should hear

Common ear problems

According to Dr Liu, there are many different types of ear problems. Ear pain may be caused by infections of the tonsils, the jaw or sinuses. Chronic infection, glue ear for example, can cause hearing loss that can affect learning and lifestyle, and exposure to loud noises can also damage hearing. As well as infections, the ears can also suffer from dermatitis reactions to topical medicine by wearing jewellery, cosmetics or ear plugs.

Ear problems are often caused by an infection. However, not taking care of your ears properly or an unhealthy lifestyle may also cause pain or discomfort.

The most common ear problems:

Keeping them clean

Dr Liu said many people were brought up to believe that cleaning the ears was a good thing and that it was hygienic. We now know that this in most cases does more harm than good. The ear has its own internal cleaning mechanism that can manage without our help.

Even though earwax seems gross, it does serve a purpose. Your ear canal produces earwax to protect the ear. After it is produced, it slowly makes its way to the opening of the ear. Then it either falls out or is removed when you wash. If you want, you can clean the opening of your ear gently with a washcloth.

There's an old saying that you shouldn't put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear. Not all old sayings are true, but this one is! You can hurt your ear by poking around in there. It's not even a good idea to use a cotton swab. This can push wax deeper in your ear, where it can get stuck. Irritating the ear canal with a cotton swab can even lead to an ear canal infection.

If you produce excessive earwax the problem can be prevented by a regular ear check-up with a trained nurse, who can just gently lift out excess wax with a little ring and leave minimal healthy wax to protect the ear canal skin. The nurse will use a flashlight so that there is a clear view of the ear canal.

Ear care after swimming

Sometimes, swimming can lead to a case of "swimmer's ear." That's when your outer ear gets infected, causing swelling and pain. This happens when water gets stuck in your ear canal. This can irritate the skin, making it easier for bacteria to invade the skin and cause an infection. If you think you have swimmer's ear, you need to call a doctor immediately. Special eardrops can also help get rid of it.

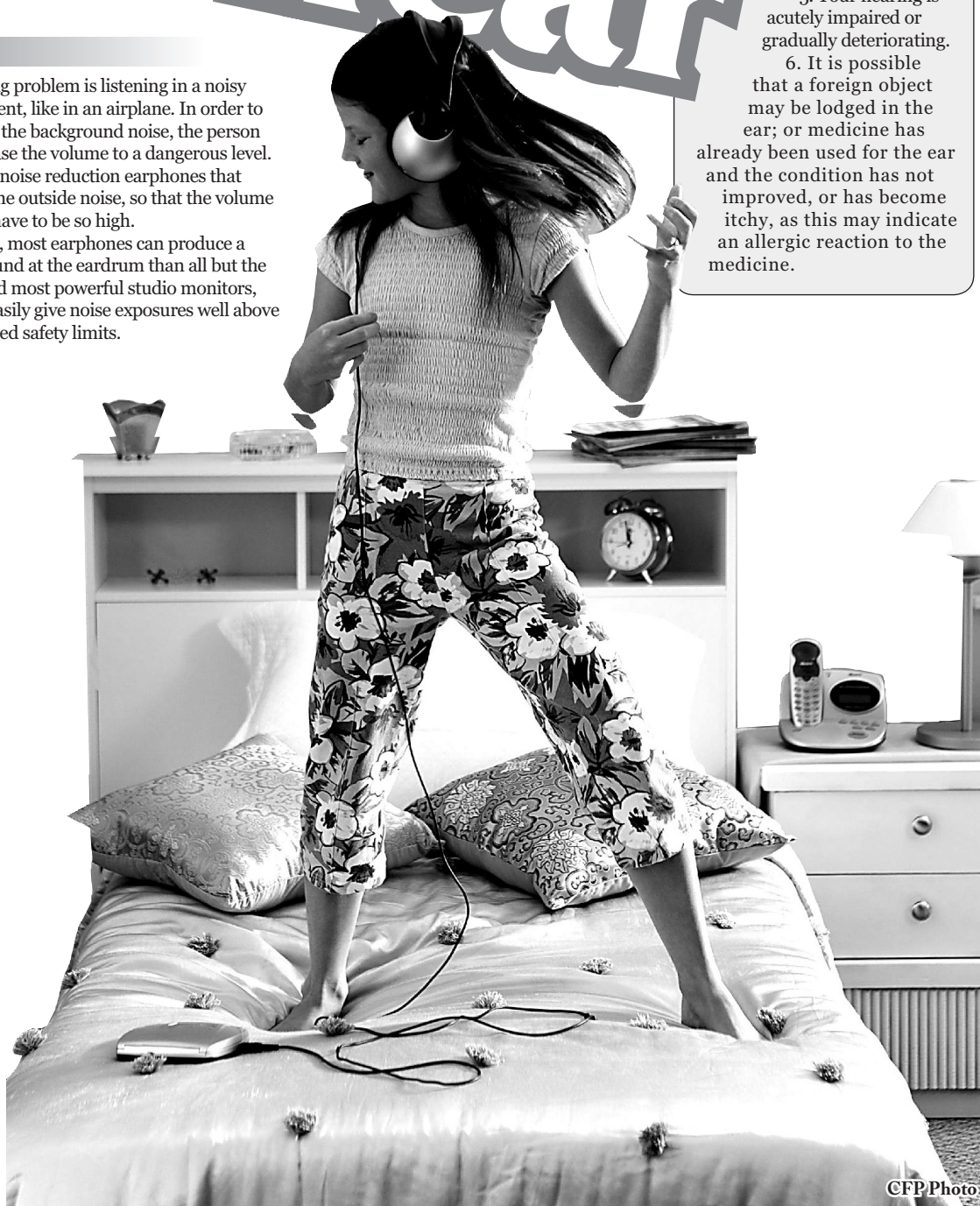
To prevent swimmer's ear, dry your ears after swimming and shake out excess water, especially if you feel it stuck in there. A few drops of rubbing alcohol can also dry out any moisture in there.

Loud music linked to hearing problems

Hearing experts say part of the problem is the rise of using earphones to listen to music with the volume cranked way up. Since the earphones are directly against the ears, there is no buffering and a high intensity of sound waves blast directly into the eardrum.

One big problem is listening in a noisy environment, like in an airplane. In order to overcome the background noise, the person will increase the volume to a dangerous level. There are noise reduction earphones that dampen the outside noise, so that the volume does not have to be so high.

In fact, most earphones can produce a louder sound at the eardrum than all but the largest and most powerful studio monitors, and can easily give noise exposures well above the accepted safety limits.



CFP Photo

Tips for healthy ears

1. To keep your ears clean, wash the visible part of the ear and behind the ear with slightly soapy fingers. Then wipe the soap away with your fingers and dry with a thin towel. Do not poke the corner of the towel or flannel into the entrance to the ear canal.

2. You should always rinse your hair with fresh, clean water. Lying down to wash your hair in bath water can cause an infection to develop as there are always bacteria from your body in the bath water and these can become trapped behind any wax in the ear canal.

3. Try to protect your ears from dust and noise. Do not use earphones to listen music for over two hours.

4. Consult a doctor or nurse if you have constant or recurring ear pain. People should have their hearing checked annually if they are exposed to hazardous noise daily or if they notice a change in their hearing. If you are not exposed to constant loud noise on a daily basis, it is recommended to have your hearing checked every three years.

5. Do not use cotton swabs or other devices for cleaning your ears.

Repeated attempts to remove earwax with a cotton swab or metal objects may result in the wax becoming more deeply impacted.

6. If you suffer from "swimmer's ear," you should use earplugs to help prevent water entering your ears.

7. If you have problem ears, keep them dry!

8. If you are working in a noisy environment, including your home, use ear plugs.

9. Blow your nose correctly. Do not squeeze the nose when blowing and do not sniff.

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Enjoying a set of sun rays in Palau

... continued from Page 20

Blue Corner, Palau

Palau has hundreds of diving sites along the island country's beautiful coastline and it is one of world's best known diving destinations. Most diving spots in Palau are walls, plateaus, caves and there are also numerous WWII ship wrecks.

Blue Corner is without a doubt the most popular dive site in Palau. Not for the faint of heart, this is an advanced dive with sometimes very strong and unpredictable currents. Exactly the conditions that attract the many sharks to this ridge that jets out to the open ocean and drops thousands of feet.

The dive will start along either side of the wall, depending on the currents. Divers typically drop to about 90 feet to see magnificent gorgonian fans, anemones, eels and soft corals along the wall. You'll likely be greeted by a cruising gray reef shark, but they will at this point keep their distance.

This is just half the excitement of Blue Corner. The other half lies in the sandy channels that cross the shelf, further back from the drop-off. As you unhook from the ridge, you'll drift back and the currents will subside.

In the hard-coral-covered shelf, you'll find hundreds of species of fish. Turtles, manta rays, eagle rays and Napoleon wrass are not uncommon. Large Dogtooth tuna, triggerfish, Clown Triggers, schooling barracuda, jacks, and many species of butterfly fish. Don't get too close to the King Triggers, as they will very aggressively defend their territory, sometimes chasing divers all the way to the surface.

As you move slowly along the sandy pathways, you'll often find white-tip sharks sleeping on the bottom. At certain times of the year you can see large schools of Moorish Idols.

Diving style: wall, drift (hook use)

Max depth: 18-30 meters

Cost: US\$70 / 1 tank dive (lunch/drinks included)

Contact: Dive Palau
POBox 1904, Koror, Palau
96940

Tel/Fax:
011-680-488 3548

Email:
keith@palaunet.com



A bird's-eye view of Alifu Atoll

Alifu Atoll, Maldives

More than 7,000 low lying coral islands in a 1,200 mile chain southeast of India, the Maldives are an amazingly beautiful destination for divers. About 200 of the islands are inhabited and several are devoted entirely to small resorts that offer excellent tropical reef diving with big fish action.

The biggest attraction are the fish that patrol the reefs in colorful packs: humpback and black and white snappers, Trevally Jacks, barracuda, bat-fish, unicorn fish, yellowback fusiliers and harlequin sweetlips.

Alifu Atoll is a group of three geographical atolls - Ari Atoll, one of the largest atolls in the Maldives, Rasdhoo Atoll and the tiny Thoddoo Atoll.

Ari

Around 80 kilometers long and 30 wide, Ari Atoll is one of the largest of the Maldives. Its natural beauty has led to it being the most well developed

tourist destination in the archipelago.

Rasdhoo

Rasdhoo Atoll, also part of the Alifu group, boasts two resorts and an uninhabited island. The capital, Rasdhoo has a population of more than 850.

Thoddoo

Excavations on the archeological sites of Thoddoo, have revealed that the island was an important Buddhist center before the Maldives embraced Islam in 1153. One of the main attractions of this island is its 17th century Mosque. Thoddoo is also well known for its watermelon fields.

Where: M Neeloafarumaage (2nd Floor), Chambeyli Magu, POBox 3015, Malé 20-01 Maldives

Tel: +960-333 737

Fax: +960-334 951

Email:
info@bonvoyage-maldives.com



The Similan Islands has developed considerably over the years.

The Similan Islands, Thailand

The Similan Islands, located about 100 kilometers northwest of Phuket, are a group of nine granite islands covered in tropical jungle, washed by a clear blue tropical ocean and blessed with some of the world's finest beaches.

Similan comes from Malay fisherman who named it "The Nine Islands" (Sembilan is "nine" in Malay). The islands have achieved national park status. Currently there is limited accommodation available on the island and hopefully it will stay this way.

The East Coast with its powdery beaches features hard coral gardens which slope dramatically from the surface down to approximately 30-40 meters, where sand takes over as the water depth increases.

The most popular activity is drift diving along healthy coral gardens while watching the reef inhabitants go about their business.

The West Coast, just a short boat ride away, can offer faster-paced, more exhilarating diving as currents swirl around the huge granite boulders, some larger than the largest of houses. These smooth, rounded boulders make dramatic formations, holes, and over-

hangs underwater where divers can enjoy swimming with the current through the openings.

If you enjoy watching and photographing small fish, the Similans are hard to beat for the sheer numbers and variety of tropical fish especially lionfish and anemone fish. Whale shark are also fairly common. And, the most famous aquatic resident of Thailand - the leopard shark - makes an appearance on a regular basis.

High season in the Similans is from October until May, but diving is possible all year-round. The water visibility is almost always good, averaging 18-25 meters and at times exceeding 40 meters! There are over 30 dive sites in the Similan chain.

Getting there:

Transfer from Phuket Airport to Chalong Bay. Board night boat from the bay to Similan islands.

Contact:

Ms Kesorn Muibong
Association of Domestic Travel
Where: POBox 126, Phuket
83000, Thailand

Tel: +66-8-9459 5219

(By Zhao Hongyi)

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“No noise!” and “Anti-Earthquake Memorial”

Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

By Zhao Hongyi

Fighting against Chinglish is a big topic these days, not only for the Chinese government and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, but also for many native English speakers. From the western point of view, it is also a deepening process of English globalization.

Whether or not it is a matter of opening up to globalization, bridging the language gap is the ultimate reason for cracking down on Chinglish. Therefore, it is necessary to point out Chinglish words and phrases to

meet the curiosity of the native English speakers and correct the expressions and clarify the understanding of the Chinese.

As a reporter for an English newspaper, speaking English is a daily must in the office. Also, over half of my colleagues are young women that recently graduated from university. Chatting, or communicating, or exchanging ideas or whatever word you'd like to describe it – they are always talking and laughing in the office.

One day, I shouted at them, “Stop making so much noise!” But

no one cared about what I said.

“We’re communicating, not making noise!” my female colleague explained to me.

“Man, you’d better say ‘quiet please!’ and I’m sure they will follow your advice if you want to act professional,” suggested one of the native-English copy editors.

The other day when we were driving along the Fifth Ring Road, I found a signboard that said, “Anti-Earthquake Memorial, turn right!”

My first reaction was “Who can fight against earthquakes?”

“Only God!” my friend laughed.

The right expression should be “Earthquake Memorial.”

Some more hilarious Chinglish expressions which are literal translations:

American Chinese not enough (the only pity is ...),

Heart flower angry open (happy like the blossoming flowers),

Seven up eight down (upsetting, be agitated or be perturbed),

Good good study, Day day up (study hard and make progress everyday.)

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to gantian@ynet.com with your name and address.



Examining the price service

By Derrick Sobodash

Every week, I end up stumped as to just how such horrifying English ends up cobbled together and slapped on a sign.

This week’s sign is just absolutely incomprehensible: “To sell the commodity space all accepting money sipe supplies examining the price service.”

Huh?

Many Chinglish signs have a few funny mistakes, but signs like this bring more confusion than amusement. Let’s go through this step by step.

A commodity is a salable good, and a place that sells goods is generally a “store.” Since you can’t have “to store” – an entirely different verb – the two must be dropped, and as the store is a location, it makes sense to say something like “Within the store.”

Next up, we have “all accepting money sipe.” It took some work to figure out, but “sipe” is probably supposed to be “site.” A site that accepts money is a “cash register, or just a “register.” The “all” indicates there are more than one, so we’ll pluralize the noun to get “all the registers.”

Lastly, “supplies examining the price service” is an fine example of how this sign’s translator failed Spelling 101. In English, you “provide” a service, you don’t “supply” it. The verb “supply” suggests a physical, tangible amount is being given, while this is an intangible service. The last part should be something like “price checking service.”

So far, this leaves us with, “Within the store, all registers provide price checking service.” Knock out the first part entirely, because no one would ever assume a register outside your store is a good place to price check your merchandise. The second part is just a little awkward for a sign. A more succinct, clear translation would be, “All registers provide price checking service.”

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you’re planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

By Dan Thwaites

1. Caught many eyeballs

This often comes up when a reporter is covering a show or an exhibition and wants to explain how something or someone really stood out. However, the proper expression would be, “caught my/your eye.” Although somewhat precise in that something did cause your eyeballs to move, it sounds very strange and is extremely awkward. You could also use, “caught my attention.”

2. Earned people’s respect

Unless you or someone you know are getting respect from an animal or perhaps your video game console or computer, there is no need to use the word: people. Simply using “earned respect” will suffice. Who else besides a human being is going to respect you?

3. Taekwondo players

While working on the World Taekwondo Championships supplement that was held in Beijing a few weeks ago I constantly came across “taekwondo player.” In a typical ball sport like soccer or basketball, it is common to say “soccer player” or “basketball player.” But for non-ball sports like taekwondo, rowing, or skiing, player is not applicable. For taekwondo, he/she should be referred to as a “taekwondo fighter.”

4. Among 30 audiences

In describing the reaction of a survey conducted to an audience attending a play, the writer chose to say “30 audiences.” Unless the good people doing the survey chose to go to 30 different showings of the play to really get an accurate prediction of the few questions they

were asking, it seems like a lot of wasted time and effort. What the writer was trying to say was “30 audience members” or “30 members of the audience.”

5. Many people stand around this area and put their vision on four body models.

At the World Tech Expo late last month, the reporter used “many people stand around this area” when the writer could have easily just said “countless visitors...at the exhibit.” “Put their vision” sounds like something out of a science-fiction movie and you could just say “focused on.” The four body models in question actually ended up being “mannequins.” So what the reporter was trying to say was “Countless visitors focused on the four mannequins at the exhibit.”

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

Aver / Assert / Affirm

Aver means to assert or affirm with confidence, declare in a positive or peremptory manner. “He averred that he was innocent.” Assert is more positive, to state as having existence, as the example, “to assert a first cause as necessary.” Affirm is to express agreement with or commitment to something, like “to affirm human rights.” You also can say, “he affirmed his innocence.”

Famous / Well-known

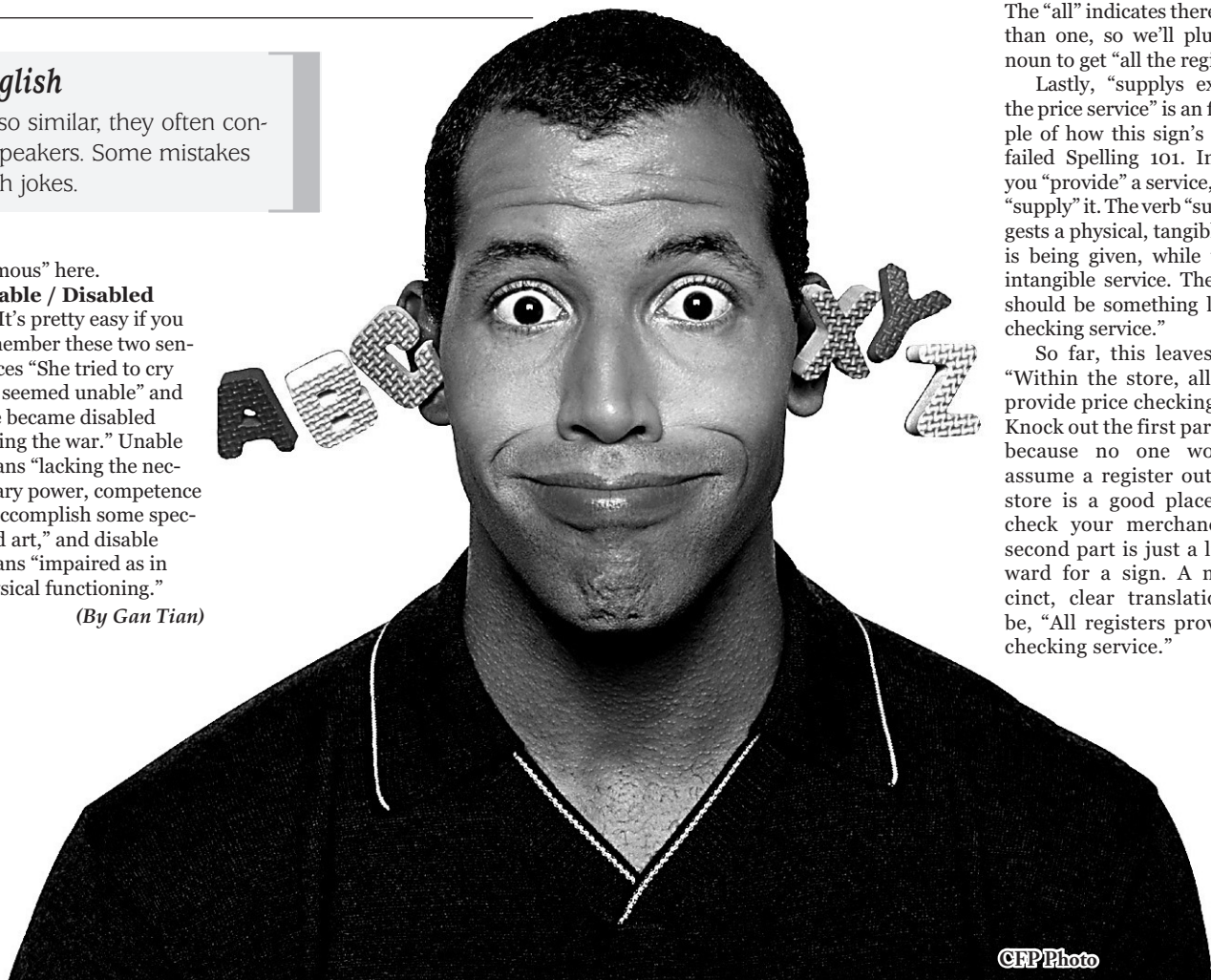
There is not so much difference when describing something or someone with a widespread reputation, usually of a favorable nature. However, the only difference goes in the sentence: “It’s well-known that China is a developing country.” You cannot use

“famous” here.

Unable / Disabled

It’s pretty easy if you remember these two sentences “She tried to cry but seemed unable” and “He became disabled during the war.” Unable means “lacking the necessary power, competence to accomplish some specified art,” and disable means “impaired as in physical functioning.”

(By Gan Tian)



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Friday, June 15

Exhibition Women Today — Cao Na Innovative Chinese Water Colour



Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery, 02 Riverville Square, Tianzhu, Shunyi
When: Daily 9am-8pm, until June 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

Optical Statues — Charlotte Guibe Solo Exhibition

Where: Gallery Perif, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until June 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 135 8185 9097, 134 2606 3725

Road of Pilgrimage — Li Guanglin Solo Exhibition



Where: Wan Fung Art Gallery, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, until June 19
Admission: Free
Tel: 6523 3320

Hard Work — Chen Bo Solo Exhibition

Where: China Blue Gallery, F/2-3, Building 7, Ego Actliving, 16A Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until July 8
Admission: Free
Tel: 8774 6332, 8774 6339



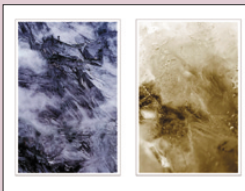
Music Made in Ningxia: Bu Yi, Nuclear and Easy Going

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, Inside the drive-in movie

theater park, No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 10pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8196 4820

Saturday, June 16

Exhibition Mirror — Dong Dong Solo Photography Exhibition



This series sets up a bridge between beautiful landscapes and your heart, which enables the passion and expression of his work to transform into a state of purity and simplicity.

Where: Cloud & Sky Photo Image Gallery, C3006 Jiuchang Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until July 6
Admission: Free
Tel: 5202 3892

China Connection — Anatoly Shuravlev Solo Exhibition

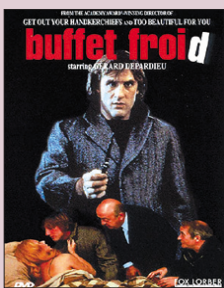


A Moscow artist now resident in Berlin comes to Beijing after recently gaining experience as a curator. His work has been previously displayed at the second Moscow Biennial for Contemporary

Art, which invited artists from all over Europe and New Zealand, as well as China.

Where: Galerie Urs Meile, No 104 Caochandi Village, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6:30pm, until July 14
Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 3393

Movie Buffet Froid



A black comedy about the solitude and adventures of three men in a crazy, mixed up world. It follows the story of Alphonse Tram, an unemployed young man whose neighbor is a detective named Morvandieu. A third man then appears — Alphonse's wife's murderer. A story that is both bizarre and unreal.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Sunday, June 17

Exhibition Garden — Maze of the Middle Class: Xu Hong Solo Exhibition



In Xu Hong's new exhibition, there is always a character watching in the garden: a young man is standing somewhere in the garden and looking into the distance; a peculiar man who seems to be outside of the painting is seen looking at the spectacular garden. Xu explores the life of the emerging Chinese middle class from multiple angles.

Where: China Art Seasons, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until July 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 1900

Sawing or Being Sawed? — Wang Luyans and Hanna Kim Exhibition

Where: Space 1 and Sapce 3 of Arario Beijing Sapce, inside Chaoyang Liquor Factory, Beihuqu Lu, Anwaipei Jie, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun

10am-6pm, until July 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 5202 3803, 5202 3800



Movie Pierrot le Fou

Pierro escapes his boring life and travels from Paris to the Mediterranean Sea with Marianne, a girl who is being chased by Algerian hitmen. They lead an unorthodox life and are always on the run.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Stage in July

Dance Cloud Gates



Cloud Gates will return to the Beijing stage after 14 years to perform "Tale of the White Serpent and Unforgettable Moments of Cloud Gates" and "Water Moon."

According to a local legend, Cloud Gate is the name of the oldest known dance in China, a ritual dance that is over 5,000 years old. In 1973, choreographer Lin Hwai-min adopted this classical name for the first contemporary dance company in China: Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan.

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, July 11-15
Admission: 200-1,200 yuan
Tel: 6416 9990, 6417 0058

Red Cloud in the Sky

This original dance drama is to commemorate the Long March.

Who: Shanghai Dance Theater

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30pm, July 1
Admission: 100-680 yuan

Music

Canadian Girls Chorus



A total of 18 songs will be performed, including *Haec Est Dies*, *Ave Maria*, *Laudate Pueri Dominum*, *Wir eilen mit schwachen*, *Sanctus*, *Dome Epais*, *The Snow*, *Away From the Roll of the Sea*, *Prairie Boy*, *Mikmaq Honour Song*, *I Went To The Market*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Queen Jane*, *We Rise Again*, *Living In A Holy City*, *The Storm Is Passing Over*, *Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down* and *Shiru!*

Who: Madison Girls' Chorus

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, July 18
Admission: 10-100 yuan

2007 Symphony Season

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, until July 21
Admission: 180-500 yuan

San Francisco Children's Chorus

Who: San Francisco Children's Chorus
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, July 24
Admission: 10-100 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)